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Entertainment Weekly

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Pitch Perfect 2

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By Tim Stack

NOV. 28, 2014 • #1339

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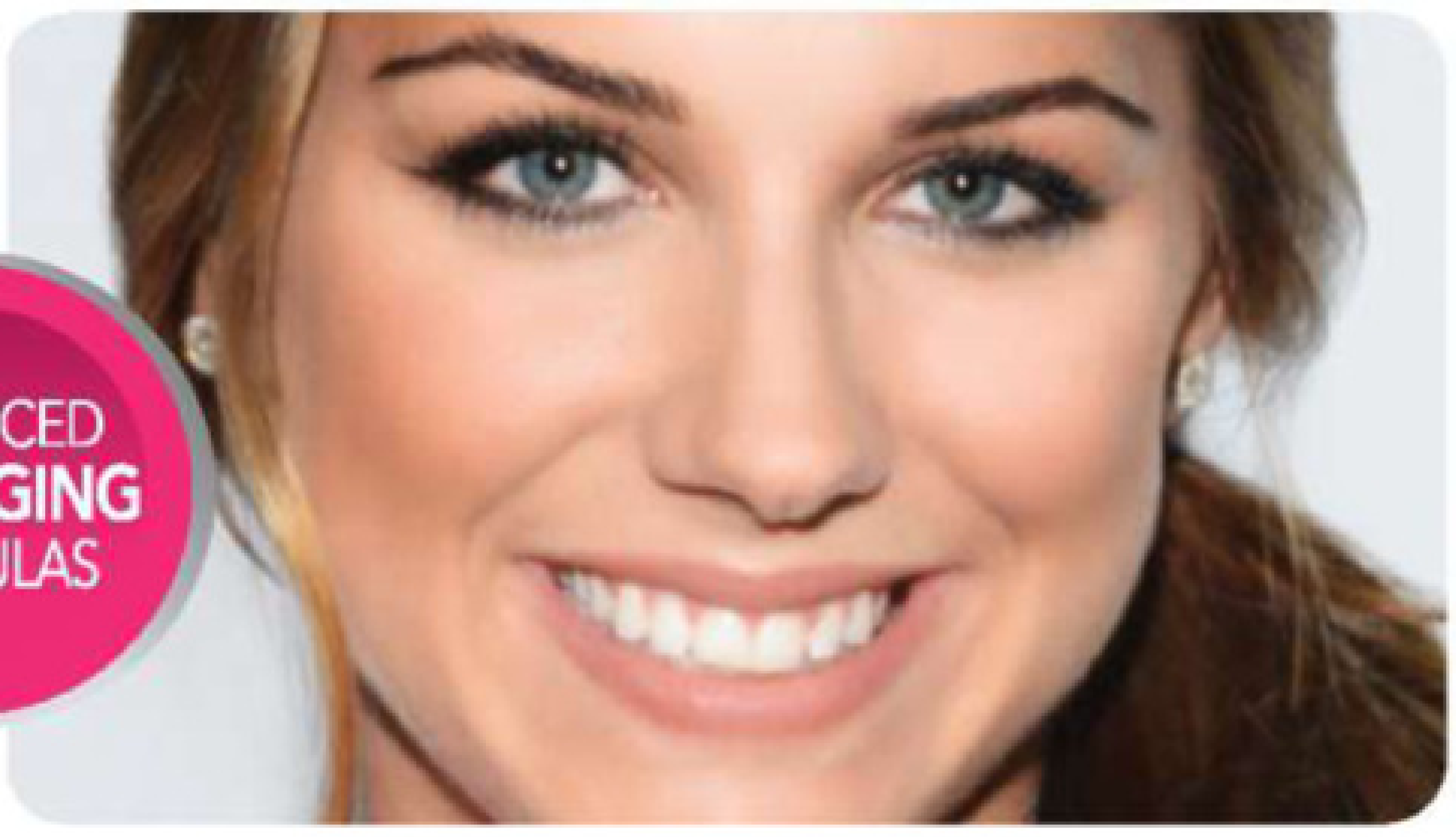

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BOYS WILL BE… Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day, and Jason Bateman (photographed on Nov. 8, 2014, in Beverly Hills) reunite for more shenanigans in *Horrible Bosses 2*

ON THE COVER Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson, and Anna Kendrick photographed exclusively for EW by Robert Trachtenberg on Sept. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles. Lettering by Gillian MacLeod.

STYLING: ELIZABETH STEWART/THE WALL GROUP; HAIR: ROBERT VETICA/ROBERT VETICA SALONS; MAKEUP: MATTHEW VANLEEUWEN/THE WALL GROUP; MANICURES: LISA JACHNO/LABNAILS; SET DESIGN: WALTER BARNETT/OPUS BEAUTY; PRODUCTION: BROOKE LUDI PRODUCTION; KENDRICK'S AND SNOW'S EARRINGS: M.C.L.

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Photograph by **ERIC RAY DAVIDSON**

FEEDBACK

WRITE TO US! → EW_LETTERS@EW.COM

Entertainment
TERMINATOR!

Bella Donna

Molte grazie, EW, for your photo essay on **Sophia Loren**! She has great passion, a big heart, exotic beauty, and, of course, incredible talent, which ensured that she was destined to be world famous. Thank you for giving us a little taste of her humor and wit by captioning the photos with her quotes. I would have loved to be on that phone call with her! This is why I love you, EW: You honor Hollywood's rich past while introducing us to what's new in the world of entertainment.

COLLEEN HUSTON
Belmont, Calif.

Just when I started grumbling about your choices for the Must List, I was gobsmacked by your photo spreads of the luminous Sophia Loren. *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* is my favorite Loren comedy, and *Two Women* helped her grab her rightful place—at the top of the mountain—in the small group we call screen legends.

MARILYN JESS
North Bennington, Vt.

Connoisseur of Crime

It was great to see your Binge! on **Michael Connelly**. I discovered his books five years ago on Audible, listened to all of them in less than six months, and have eagerly awaited each new book's publication ever since. Beyond the gripping plots and well-drawn characters and locations, what impresses me most is that Connelly knows his stuff when it comes to crime journalism and police procedure, so that his writing is full of the tiny details that make a story real to the reader/listener.

CLARE McINTYRE HANSCOM
Orleans, Ind.

Scary Monsters and Super Creeps

In your "Creep-o-Meter" sidebar (Movies), you left out one of the creepiest characters of all time: **Francis Dollarhyde** (played by Tom Noonan) in Michael Mann's ***Manhunter***, the first film adaptation of Thomas Harris' *Red Dragon*. The scene in which he rips his fingers into his van's dashboard is unforgettably creepy, and I will never hear any part of "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" without thinking of the movie's climactic scene.

BEN MILLER
Pittsburgh

Obviously you guys forgot about **Javier Bardem's Anton Chigurh** in ***No Country for Old Men***. The gas-station scene alone is enough to creep you out for days.

BILL PITZ
West Seneca, N.Y.

In ***The Talented Mr. Ripley***, Matt Damon achieved an awe-inspiring level of creepiness. **Tom Ripley**'s boyish charm paired so memorably with his good old-fashioned case of narcissistic personality disorder. He effectively killed Rudy Baylor, Will Hunting, and Private Ryan in one fell swoop.

SARA JONES
West Point, N.Y.

Senior editor Missy Schwartz responds... *You have all submitted excellent examples of cinematic psychos. But because the Creep-o-Meter was inspired by Jake Gyllenhaal's character in* Nightcrawler, *we intentionally excluded outright serial killers and murderous monsters to focus instead on characters whose menacing threat of violence or amorality keeps us up at night, even if they haven't racked up an actual body count. So no Hannibal Lecter, Buffalo Bill, Norman Bates, or any of the dastardly chaps you guys suggested. The exception to our no-kill rule was Travis Bickle, because how could we not include such an iconic creep?*

CORRECTION
In our Michael Connelly Binge!, the plot synopsis for The Last Coyote *was mistakenly attributed to* Lost Light.

CONTACT US We want to know what you think. Send emails to *ew_letters@ew.com* or mail to 135 W. 50th St., New York, NY 10020. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Letters may be edited for clarity or length.

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UNLEASHED!

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COLOR US IMPRESSED

Comedian Jamie Lee talks life, music, and nail lacquer with Sarah Rayne (above), lead singer of the L.A. group Babes, for EW's Web series *Polished*. Head to *ew.com/polished* to watch the new installment on Nov. 26 or catch up on past episodes highlighting other women on the rise.

EW MERCHANDISE

OWN A PIECE OF EW

Just in time for the holidays, we're offering a selection of brand-related products at Entertainment Weekly's new online store. Declare your allegiance to Team Zombie (above) or Team Vampire with our selection of T-shirts. Got a new baby in your life? Check out our Grade A (or C+) one-pieces. Head to *shop.ew.com* for travel mugs, Bullseye hoodies, and more.

RADIO

REUNIONS SPECIAL

You saw the great cast photos in our recent Reunions issue; now listen in as EW Radio's Jessica Shaw chats with the reunited stars of *Ghostbusters*, *Sisters*, *Sports Night*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. The show airs on SiriusXM Channel 105 at 2 p.m. on Nov. 26.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN: RICHARD FOREMAN; T-SHIRT: LUCAS VISSER

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The Week's Best
SOUND BITES

"The European Space Agency landed a spacecraft on a comet today. Yeah, and it got even crazier when they landed it on Kim Kardashian's butt."

—Jimmy Fallon on *The Tonight Show*

"Jess, guys hate complicated situations. We want the path of least resistance. There's a flap in our underwear because we are too lazy to pull our underpants down!"

—Nick (Jake Johnson), offering dating advice, on *New Girl*

"It's HBO, okay? They do all those award-winning shows, right? Like *Mad Men*."

—Valerie (Lisa Kudrow), defending her new TV role, on *The Comeback*

"You hear 'football coach' and you expect to meet somebody that screams 'John Wayne.' Meanwhile, the only time I've screamed 'the Duke' is when we argue over who's the cutest on *Downton Abbey*."

—Cameron (Eric Stonestreet), talking to a reporter about his job, on *Modern Family*

"Please believe, men, if you end up in our pants, don't be surprised if we end up in your chimney."

—Leslie Jones, during "Weekend Update," on *Saturday Night Live*

"If there was singing, it would be classic rock, not this Andrew Floyd Webber crap!"

—Dean (Jensen Ackles), reacting to a biographical musical, on *Supernatural*

"First of all, I don't want you to call me Mr. du Pont or sir anymore. I consider us friends and most of my friends will call me Eagle. Or Golden Eagle. So either of those will work. Or John. Or Coach."

—John du Pont (Steve Carell), trying to make friends with Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum), in *Foxcatcher*

"We're all related through sex. We all have sexual relations. That is horribly weird."

—Callie (Sara Ramirez), reflecting on all the doctors' hookups over the years, on *Grey's Anatomy*

"Oh! I got accepted to Arizona State."

—Harry (Jeff Daniels), going through his old mail, in *Dumb and Dumber To*

JOHNSON: ADAM TAYLOR/FOX; KUDROW: JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO; FALLON: DOUGLAS GORENSTEIN/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES; STONESTREET, RAMIREZ: BOB D'AMICO/ABC (2); CARELL: SCOTT GARFIELD; JONES: DANA EDELSON/NBC; ACKLES: JORDAN NUTTAL/THE CW; DANIELS: HOPPER STONE

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/ The **Top 10** Things We Love This Week /

THE MUST LIST

1

MASTERCHEF JUNIOR

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more heartfelt reality show than Gordon Ramsay's kids-in-the-kitchen competition, brimming with little chefs eager to school you in foams and mousselines. *(Fox, Tuesdays, 8 p.m.)*

OON
SE
ISABELLA

Bloodshot co-owners Rob Miller and Nan Warshaw

2 WHILE NO ONE WAS LOOKING

On this double CD, the beloved Bloodshot record label looks forward while looking back, as contemporary artists (Frank Turner, Diarrhea Planet, Andrew Bird) cover songs from its 20 years in the business.

3 ALL MY PUNY SORROWS, by Miriam Toews

This radiant novel is a pretty heavy read, but Toews' brilliant prose and engaging lead characters—Elf, a virtuosic, suicidal concert pianist, and her sister, Yoli, a jaded writer of negligible success—make it impossible to put down.

ALL MY PUNY SORROWS
MIRIAM TOEWS

4 HELLO LADIES

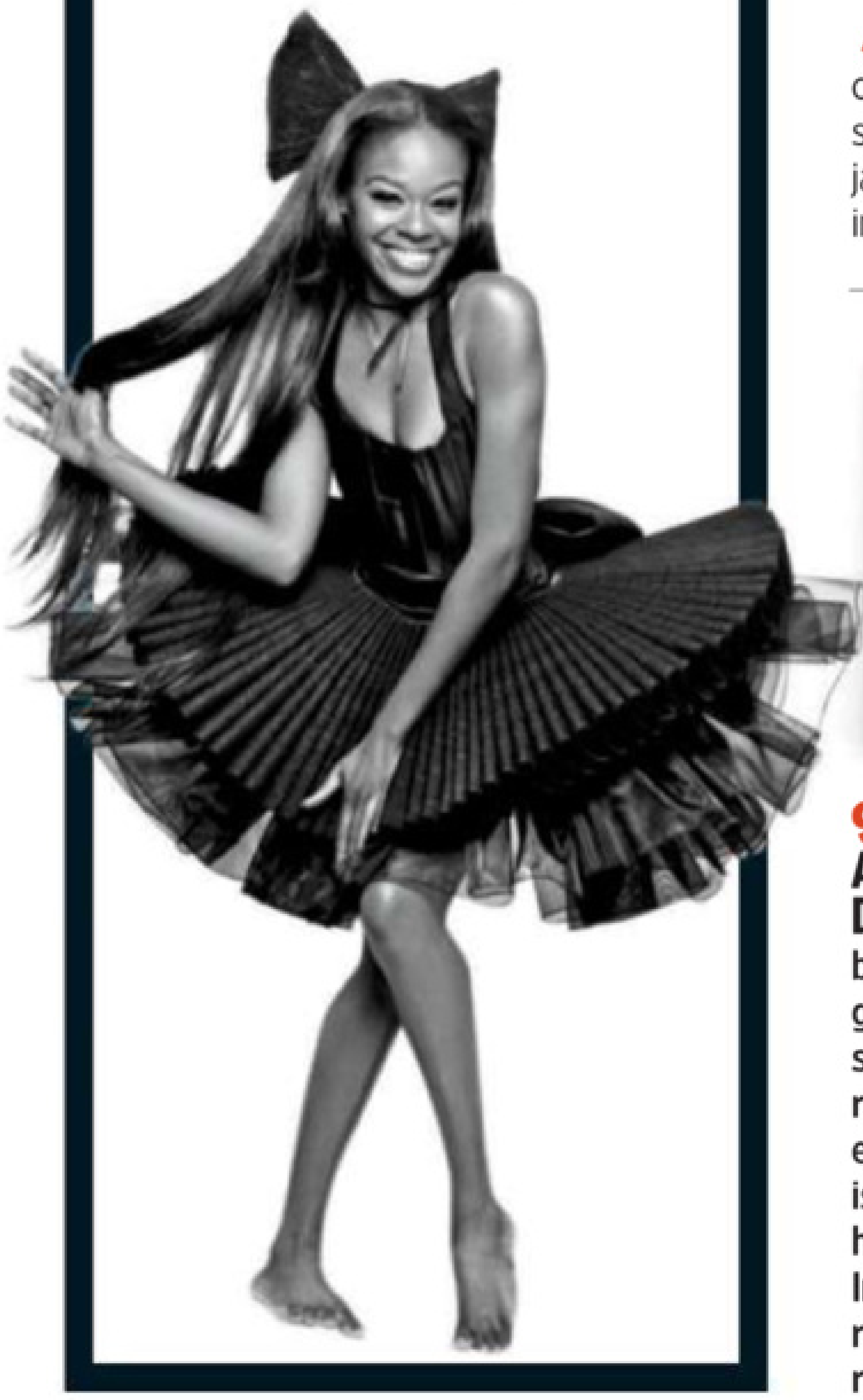
Stephen Merchant's wannabe womanizer is back for one super-uncomfortable movie, which finally answers the will-they-or-won't-they question between him and his hottie roommate. Well, sort of. *(HBO, Nov. 22, 10 p.m.)*

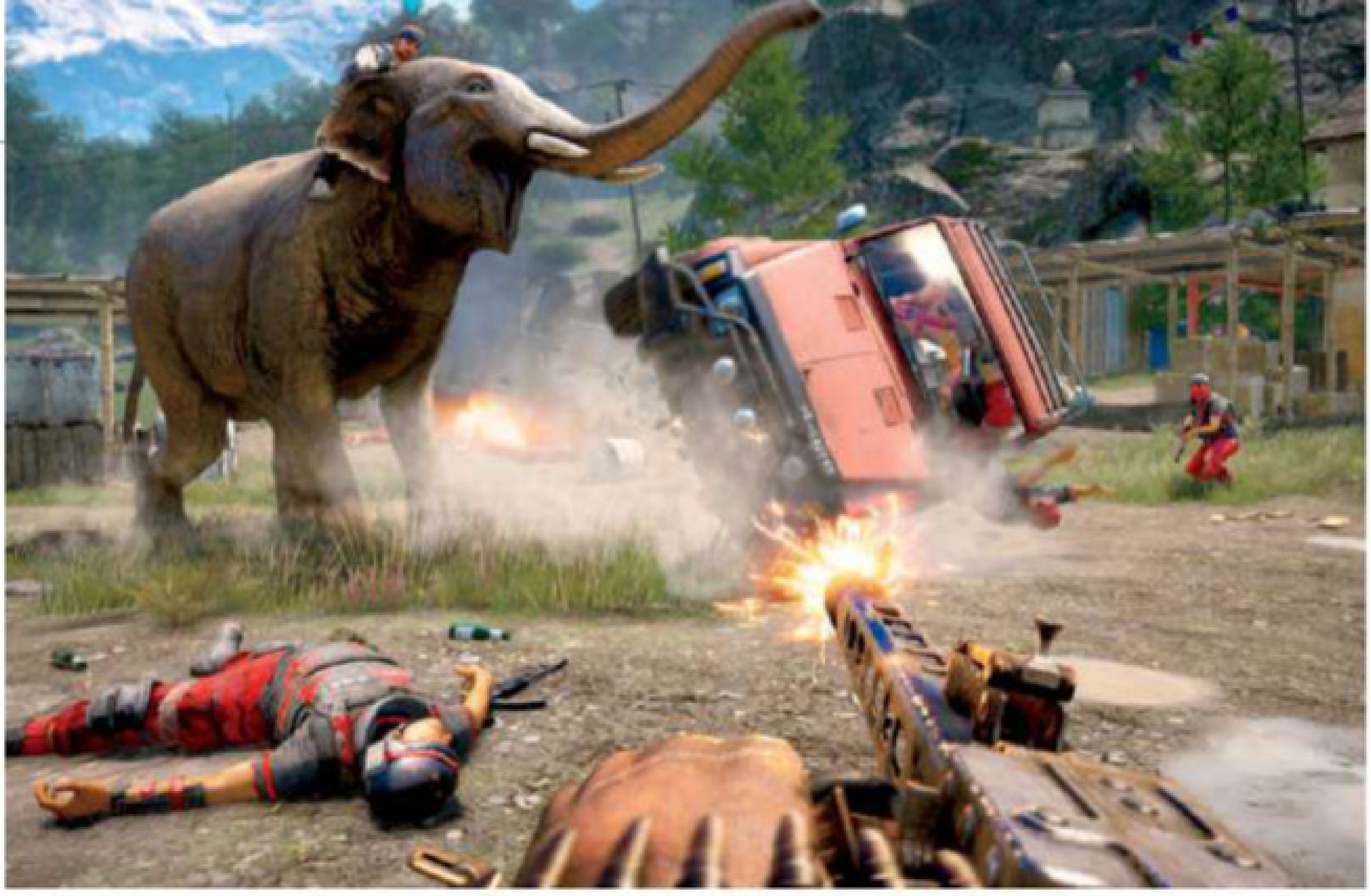
RAMSAY: FOX/GETTY IMAGES; *MASTERCHEF JUNIOR*: GREG GAYNE/FOX (7); MILLER AND WARSHAW: JACOB BOLL/*DEMO* MAGAZINE/COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO; *HELLO LADIES*: PRASHANT GUPTA/HBO

Illustration by JESSE LENZ

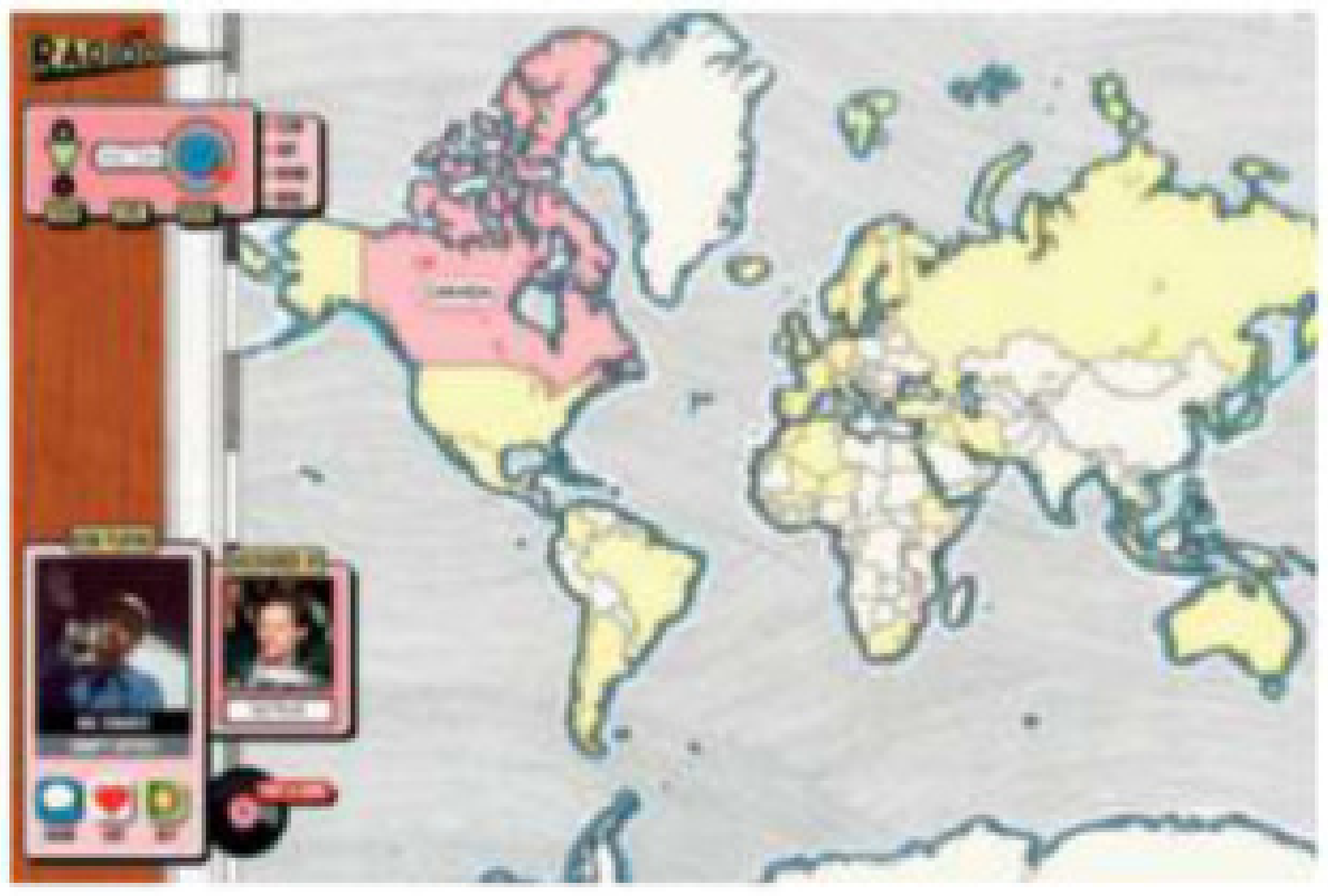
5 BROKE WITH EXPENSIVE TASTE, Azealia Banks

Three years after dominating radio with her single "212," the rap rebel and notorious Twitter troublemaker drops a long-awaited debut studio album. Fiery, gritty, and ridiculously fun, it's full of genre-busting bangers.





6 FAR CRY 4 Explore an immense, open world set in the Himalayas, where the wildlife is just as lethal as the corrupt army and ruthless despot you must take down. You haven't truly lived until you've mounted an elephant and stormed a fortress full of soldiers, guns blazing as your beast roars its enthusiastic approval. *(Rated M; multiplatform)*



7 RADIOOOOO.COM On this simple website, you click on a country, choose a decade, and listen to some homegrown tunes. Want to hear the jams your Tunisian grandparents loved in the '40s? Radiooooo's got you covered.

8 EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE
Ben Gibbard, Jimmy Tamborello, and Jenny Lewis hit the road in summer 2013 as the Postal Service for the first time in a decade, and this behind-the-scenes concert film captures them in all their danceable, melancholic glory.

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AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION
MEGHAN DAUM
AUTHOR OF MY MISSPENT YOUTH

9 THE UNSPEAKABLE, by Meghan Daum In her second book of essays, Daum goes beyond confession—she dives into radical, unflinching honesty, whether the topic is her mother's death or her love of Joni Mitchell. In addition to all the realness, the writing is really, really funny.

10 BEYOND THE LIGHTS Writer-director Gina Prince-Bythewood's modern-day *A Star Is Born*, about a troubled singer (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) and her domineering mother (Minnie Driver), doesn't let the story's emotional nuance get overcrowded by the glitz. *(Rated PG-13)*

BANKS: RANKIN; *FAR CRY 4*: UBISOFT; POSTAL SERVICE: SUZI PRATT/WIREIMAGE.COM; *BEYOND THE LIGHTS*: SUZANNE TENNER

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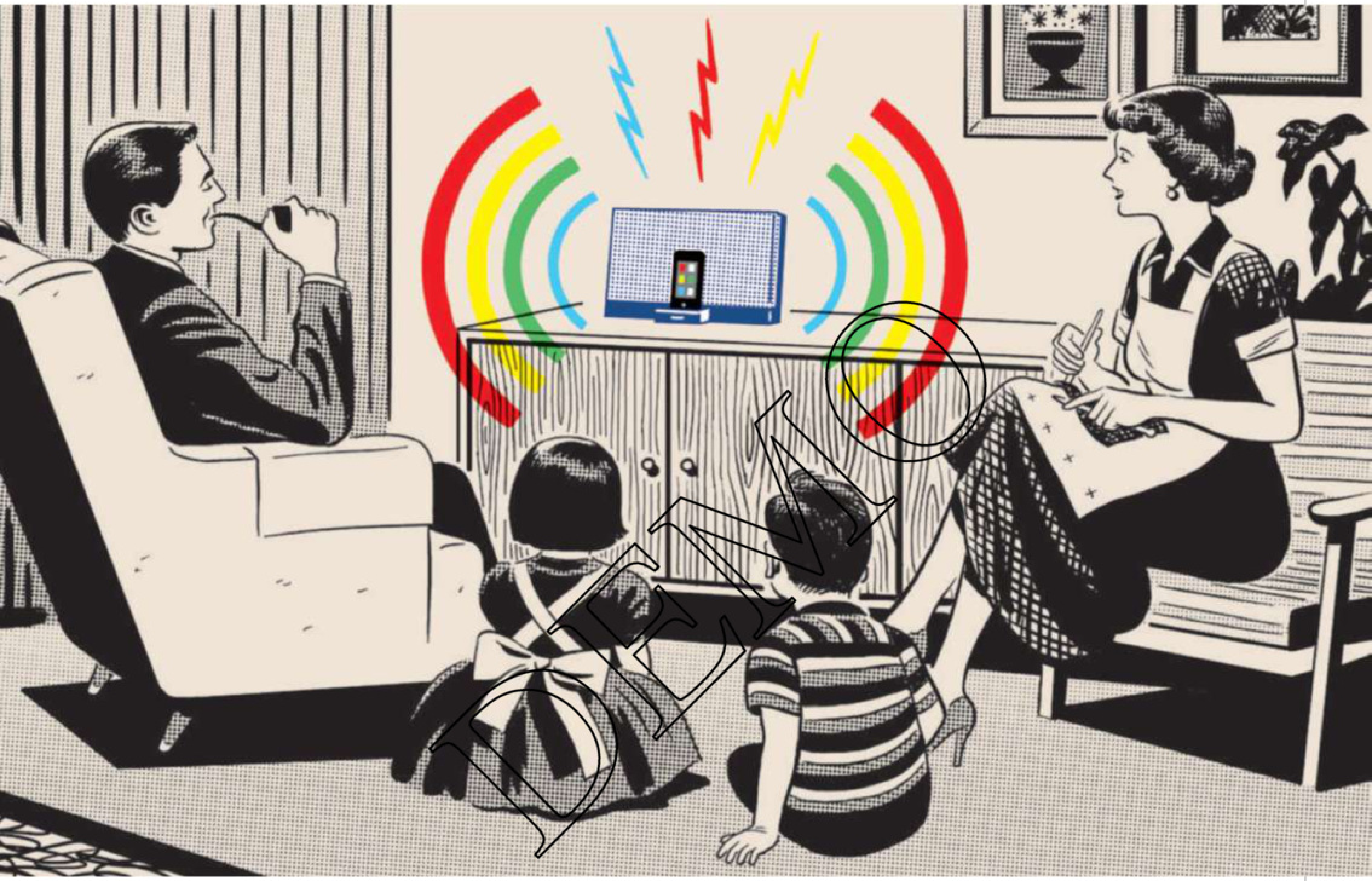
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE MEN IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S VIDEOS? PAGE 18

NEWS AND NOTES



DEMO

Serial: The Podcast You Need to Hear

An episodic true-crime investigation proves that podcasts—yes, podcasts!—are the freshest and most addictive form of storytelling today.

BY MELISSA MAERZ

IT'S ALREADY FAIRLY obvious that today's best TV shows aren't actually on television: You'll find them on Netflix, or Amazon, or some dark corner of the Internet. But is it also possible that fall's most addictive drama isn't a TV show at all?

You might find yourself thinking about that question if you, like so many of us at EW, are suddenly obsessed with iTunes' No. 1 podcast, *Serial*, which comes from the makers of *This American Life*. When Ira Glass introduced the series on *This American Life*'s blog in September, he explained, "Our hope is to give you the

SWIFT: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM

Illustration by **R. KIKUO JOHNSON**

same experience you get from a great HBO or Netflix series, where you get caught up with the characters and the thing unfolds week after week...like *House of Cards* or *Game of Thrones*, but you can enjoy it while you're driving."

Although it's a nonfiction podcast, the series does play like a prestige cable show. Like *True Detective* or *American Horror Story*, each season will follow a different suspenseful story over multiple episodes. Rather than reverting to the inverted-triangle structure of most nonfiction reporting, the first season is narrated by *Serial*'s main character, executive producer Sarah Koenig, who's investigating the 1999 murder of high school senior Hae Min Lee, allegedly by Hae's ex-boyfriend Adnan Syed. There are star-crossed lovers from different immigrant backgrounds. There's a good cop/bad cop duo. There are cliff-hanger endings that hinge on Adnan's apparent guilt or innocence. At one point, Adnan challenges Koenig to re-create the prosecution's timeline because, he says, "I've seen it before on *Dateline* or *Nightline*, where someone tries to reenact the crime, and it's like, *The crime could not have been committed*." Even Adnan views this story as if it's happening to someone on television.

Critics have been comparing *Serial* to HBO's *The Wire*. Both series follow a vibrant cast of detectives, drug dealers, and streetwise kids in Baltimore—where the legal system often fails them and the smallest mistakes can doom them for life. And fans have been consuming *Serial* in the same way as HBO's cult hit: bingeing on it, recapping it (see sidebar, page 16), creating *Serial* memes, parodies, and discussion groups. One meet-up at New York's Algonquin Hotel has been dubbed "The Sound Table," after the Algonquin's famous literary Round Table. A single section of Reddit devoted to *Serial* has more than 8,000 registered contributors, all posting their own detective work and whodunit theories.

But if *Serial* feels like a classic crime drama, it also deconstructs TV tropes, revealing that what we've learned from procedurals doesn't always work in a real case. If you watch *CSI*, for example,

BEHIND THE SCENES OF *SERIAL*

We caught up with *Serial* co-creator and executive producer Julie Snyder just minutes after finishing the latest episode. We weren't the first ones to ask her for information she herself doesn't have, but we did manage to get her to answer a few of our most burning questions. —*Melissa Maerz*

EW How far ahead of each episode are you working and reporting?

JULIE SNYDER For the most part, we're going in the order of how the reporting was done. The things in episode 1 really happened at the beginning. Sarah had done some reporting last September, and she started reporting in earnest in January. You usually want to get a lot of reporting under your feet before you ask questions. But then you have to fill in the details. We just wrapped Thursday's episode late Wednesday night.

Why haven't you interviewed Hae's boyfriend, Don?

Don doesn't want to talk, and Don's alibi is solid. He was at work the whole time.

A few episodes back we learned that evidence was thrown out by law enforcement. Will you check into that?

The detectives didn't want to talk. A lot of times attorneys have to make those inquiries, because you have to write a motion to the court to get evidence released and retested. Having the [University of Virginia] legal clinic and the Innocence Project on board, they're much more qualified to do that. We check back in with them later.

In episode 7, there's a reference to a mistrial. Will we hear more about that?

We will talk about that in a few episodes. But I can say the mistrial is not an explosive reveal.

Has the subreddit community affected your investigation?

The Reddit stuff is overwhelming. I certainly have not read *everything* on Reddit. I saw an incredible collection of maps [tracking everything from cell-phone towers to the prosecution's timeline] that people put together that were really impressive and helpful and time-consuming. But I have not found any information on Reddit that has added to our investigation.

What will next season be about?

We don't know yet. "Serial" is really just a name of the form—it's not a show about serial killers. For a while I was saying, "It definitely won't be another true-crime story," but how do I know what it definitely won't be?

Do you think Adnan is guilty?

I am the worst person to ask, because I believe everybody [on *Serial*]. I'm by far the most naive person on the show. I've had moments where I've said, "I'm 100 percent sure that he's guilty," and I've also said, "I'm 100 percent sure that he's innocent," and now I've had to totally eat s--- in front of all of my co-workers! So I've just decided to stop doing that.

Will there be a resolution to this case by the end of the season?

I don't know. I've had moments in the last year where I thought, "We only have a couple of questions left, but they seem minor." And then you get a new piece of information and you think, "Oh, God, that's not minor at all." There have been times when it's opened up a whole new alley of new questions. So I really don't know what we don't know. But I definitely know that we don't know everything.

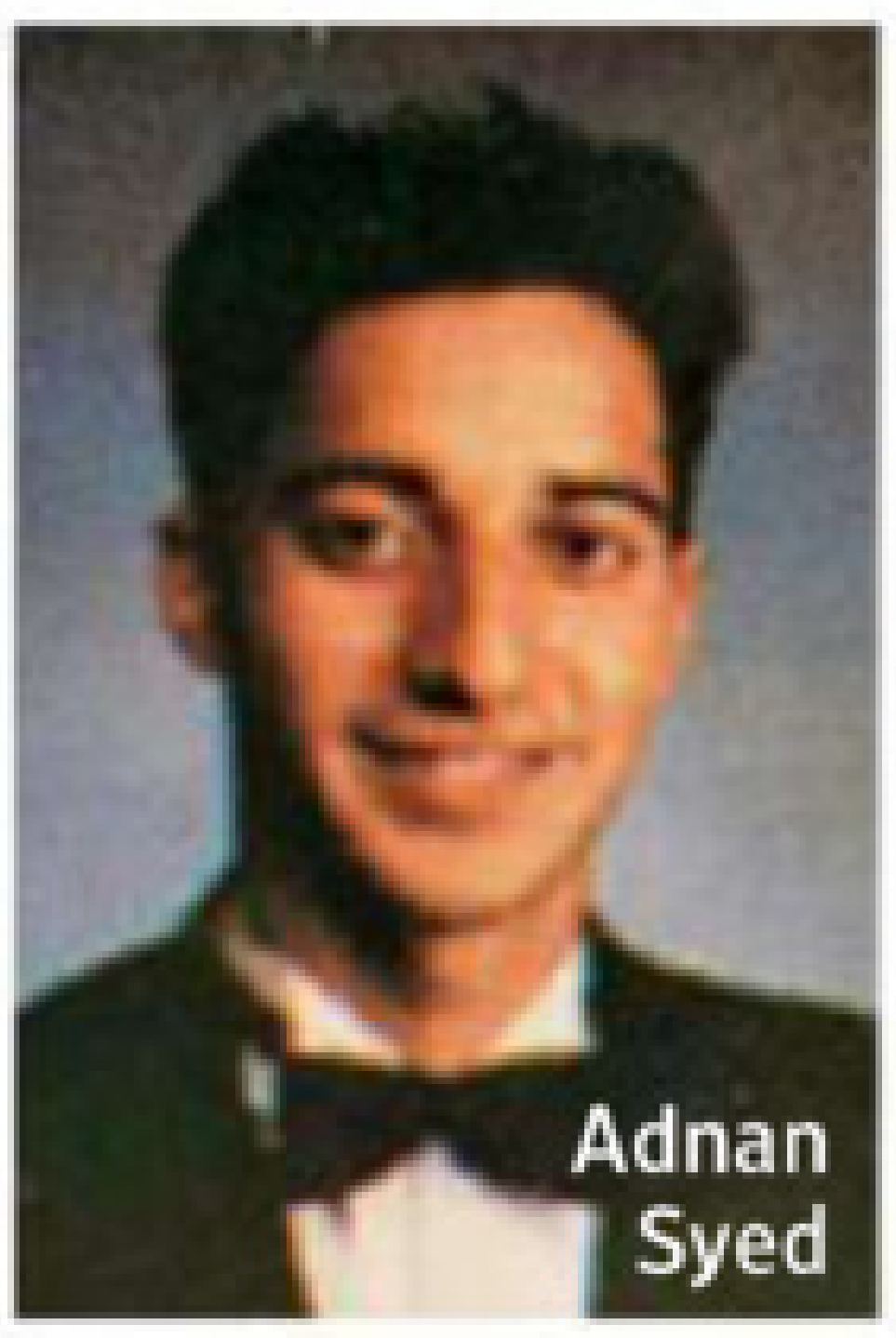
Sarah Koenig and producer Dana Chivvis in the studio

ELISE BERGERSON

you might imagine that detectives can solve a case in five minutes simply by sending DNA evidence to the lab. (There's a legal term for that—"the CSI effect"—and research suggests that it's inspiring unrealistic demands from jurors for forensic evidence in real life.) *Serial* shows just how deceptive any "definitive" evidence can be. Koenig discovers that cell-phone records are unreliable when it comes to establishing Adnan's whereabouts on the day of the murder. She pokes holes in a taped confession from a pot dealer known simply as Jay, who testifies against Adnan in the trial, by pointing out that detectives spent hours with him before they pressed "record." (Were they coaching him?) The more Koenig investigates, the less certain she becomes about the facts, and her uncertainty fuels the suspense. Although Koenig started reporting in January of this year, she and her team often stay up late on Wednesday nights wrapping up Thursday's episodes. There's a ticking-clock pace to the mystery, both on the podcast and in real life.

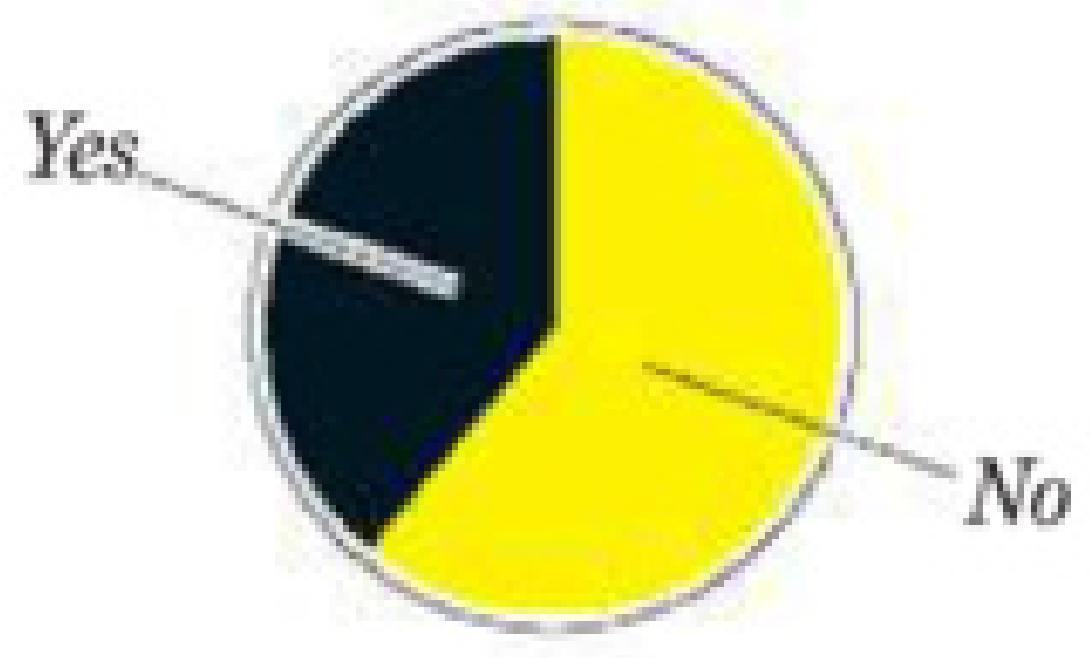
Of course, real life isn't tightly plotted like television. Some fans have complained that certain episodes of *Serial*, like the one in which Koenig consults the Innocence Project about the holes in the case, do nothing to further our knowledge of who killed Hae. But maybe that's the whole point. There's no showrunner writing this story. Red herrings aren't placed in our path for some narrative reason—they're just a fact of life. "Bad guys" are just flawed humans, as a recent episode about Jay revealed. "Objective" reporting always comes from a subjective place, which is what makes framing this case within Koenig's perspective feel more honest than some third-person voice of authority would. She's asking the same questions and confessing to the same biases that we have ourselves. That's what makes *Serial* feel so fresh.

Admittedly, all that humanity might make it difficult for *Serial* to reach a satisfying conclusion. Amateur sleuths are waging online debates about the case that the podcast hasn't even touched on yet. (Was there blood found on Hae's shirt that didn't belong to Hae, Jay, or Adnan, or is that just a misinterpretation of the court records?) And there are only a few episodes left. Listening to a dozen installments only to remain just as uncertain about Adnan's guilt might be frustrating. Even if Koenig finds enough evidence to exonerate Adnan by the season's end, the law can't free a wrongly imprisoned man in time for the finale. And say Adnan is exonerated—that doesn't mean he's not guilty. The fact that *Serial* forces you to evaluate your own complicity in this case, including your feelings about dismissing any complicating factors that stand in the way of a good story, is what makes it so gripping. Then again, demanding to be entertained by a case that involves the real-life murder of a teenager might be even more unsettling to consider. Okay, so maybe this podcast isn't *exactly* like television. Maybe it's even better. ■

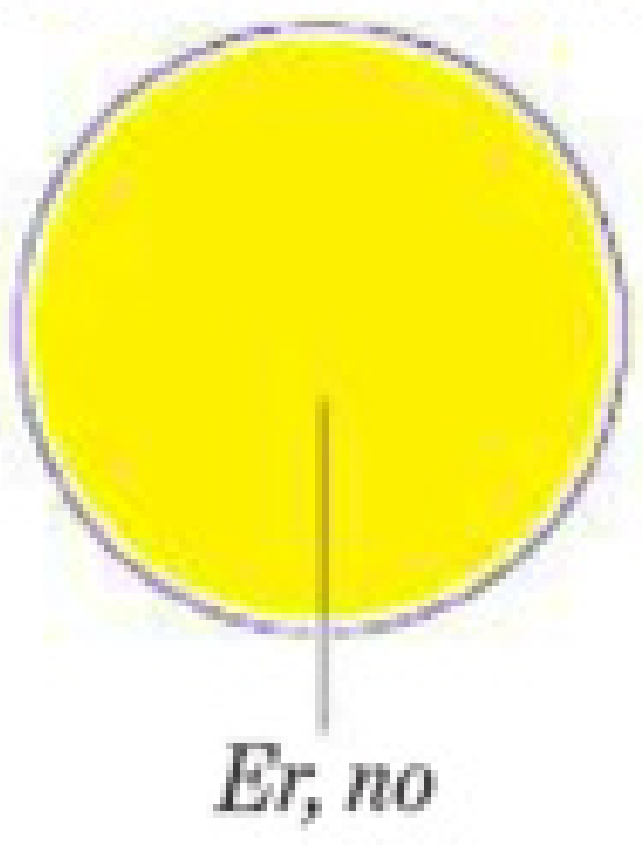

Adnan Syed

STAFF POLL

DO YOU THINK ADNAN KILLED HAE?



ARE YOU SURE?



MAY WE ALSO SUGGEST...

A single episode of *Serial* per week leaves devoted listeners starved for nail-biting narratives. Here are seven similar products to tide you over between Thursdays. —*Kat Ward*

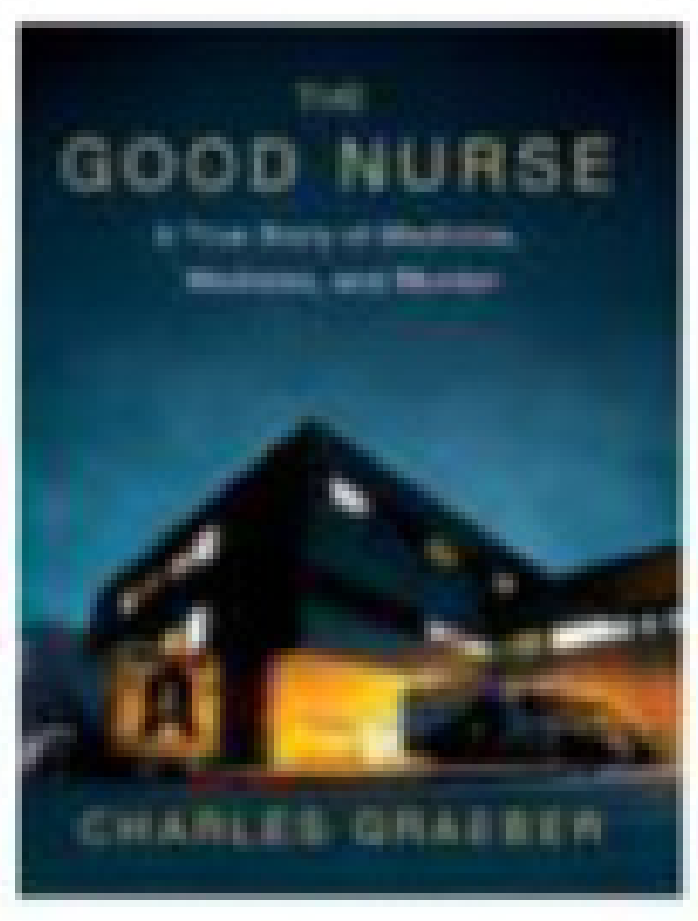
THE STAIRCASE

Sundance Channel (2005)

This meticulous eight-part miniseries explores the real-life defense of Michael Peterson, a novelist who was convicted of killing his wife in 2003.

CAPTIVATED: THE TRIALS OF PAMELA SMART *HBO (2014)*

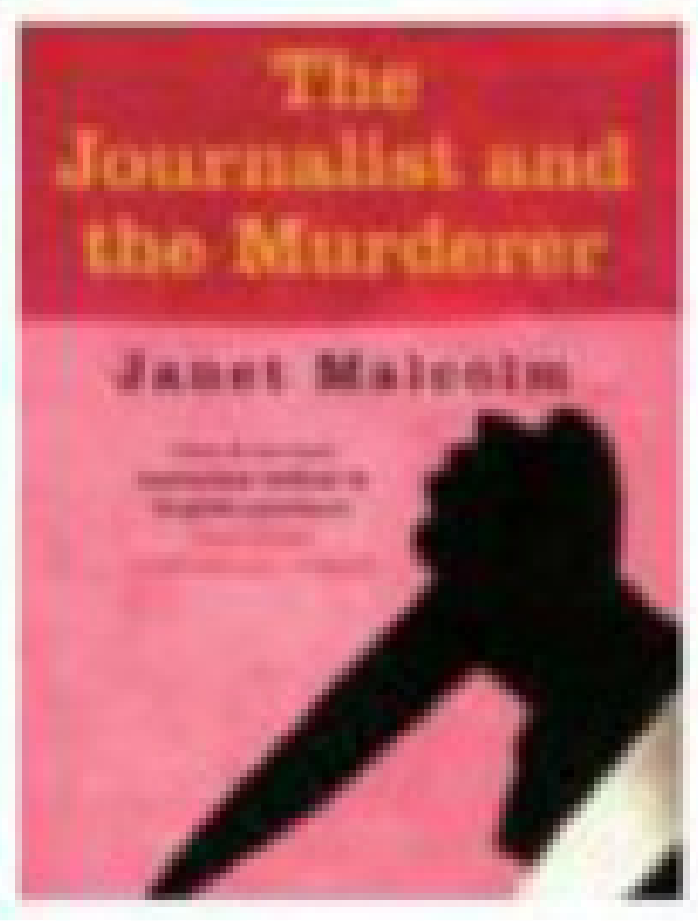
This doc examines the effect the media frenzy surrounding Smart's murder trial—the first to allow cameras in court—had on her case.



THE GOOD NURSE,

by Charles Graeber (2013)

After a decade of reporting, Graeber spins out the true story of Charles Cullen, a nurse who used his position to kill as many as 400 patients.



THE JOURNALIST AND THE MURDERER,

by Janet Malcolm (1990)

Malcolm analyzes the relationship between an alleged psychopath and the journalist he trusted to write about him.

THE THIN BLUE LINE

(1988)

Errol Morris' doc about a cop's murder made a compelling argument that the wrong man went to jail—so much so that the man was ultimately freed.

RASHOMON

(1950)

The Kurosawa classic tells the story of a samurai's death (and the resulting trial) from the conflicting, biased viewpoints of multiple characters.

STARTUP

(2014)

In a less grim narrative, business reporter Alex Blumberg chronicles his struggles to launch his own company in this serialized podcast.

STILL WANT MORE *SERIAL*? HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE?

AN HOUR	**Split the Moon** A blog maintained by Adnan's family friend and guardian angel Rabia Chaudry.
AN AFTERNOON	**Slate's *Serial* podcast** A weekly podcast about a podcast? Yes, and it's amazing.
A SOLID NIGHT IN	**The official *Serial* site** All of the podcasts plus a timeline, photos, maps, and handwritten affidavits.
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE	**The *Serial* subreddit** The rabbit hole of all rabbit holes, with more than 8,000 registered users starting threads about the case.

SYED: *SERIAL*; *THE STAIRCASE*: SUNDANCE CHANNEL; *CAPTIVATED: THE TRIALS OF PAMELA SMART*: HBO; *THE THIN BLUE LINE*: MIRAMAX/EVERETT COLLECTION; *RASHOMON*: EVERETT COLLECTION; BLUMBERG: YANA PASKOVA/*THE WASHINGTON POST*/GETTY IMAGES

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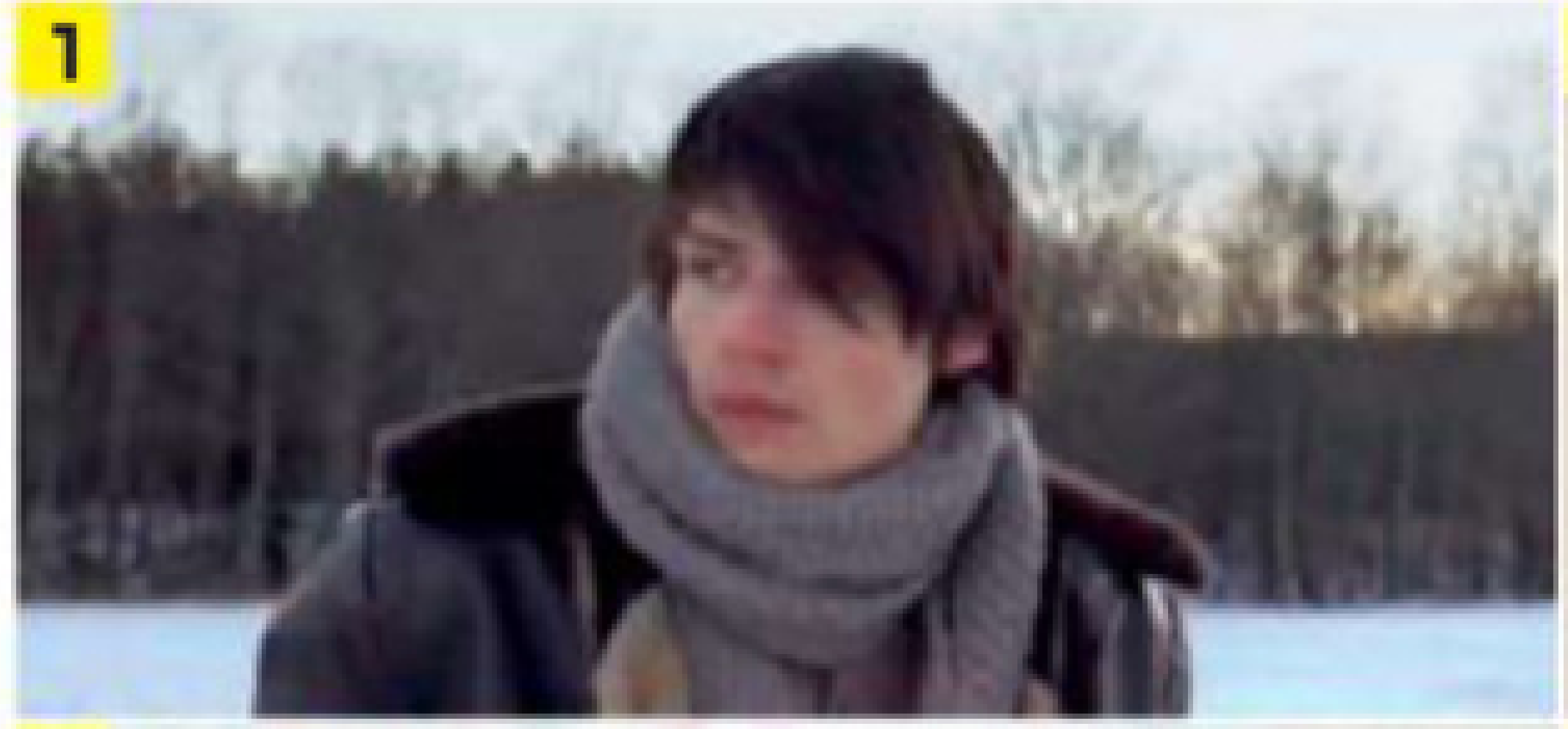
1


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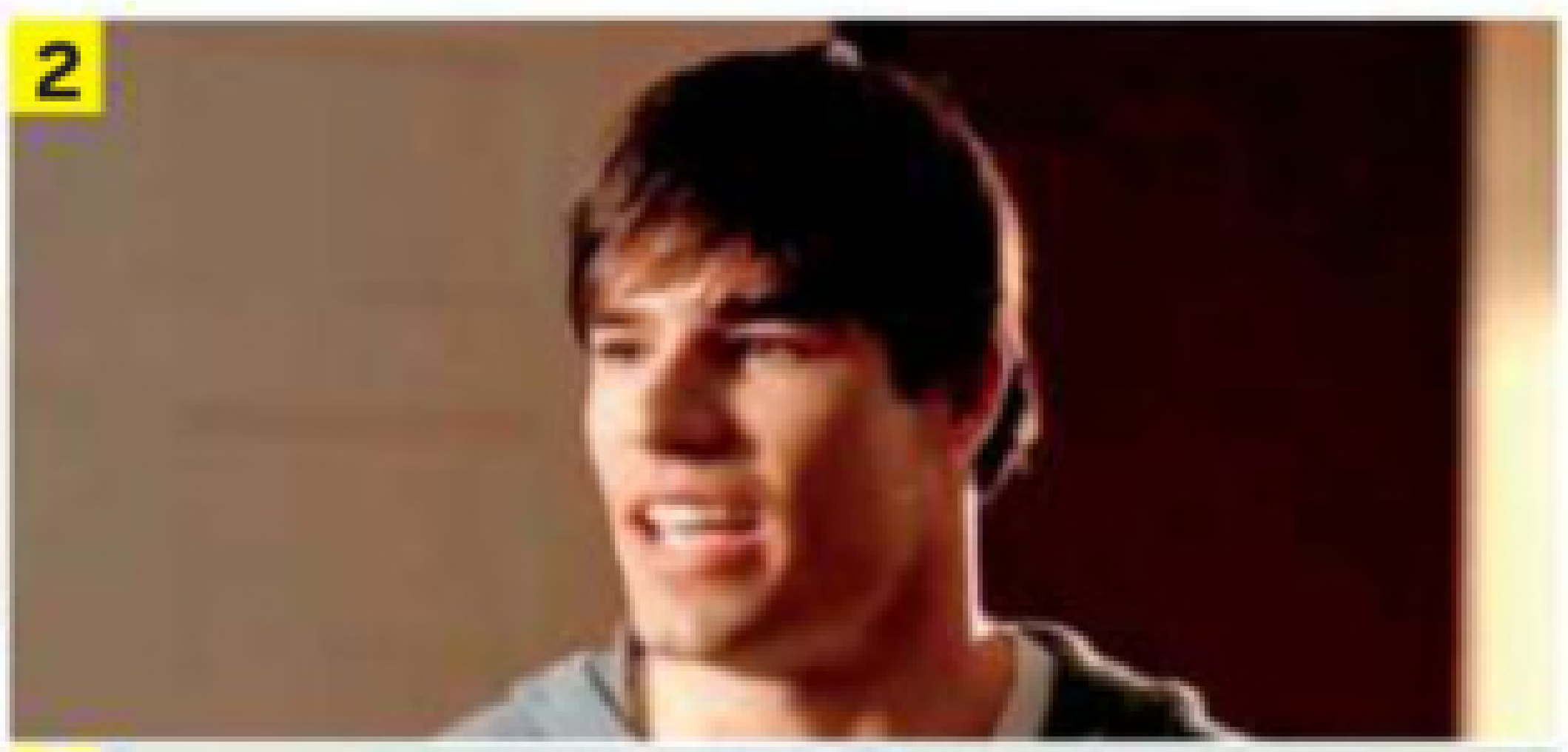

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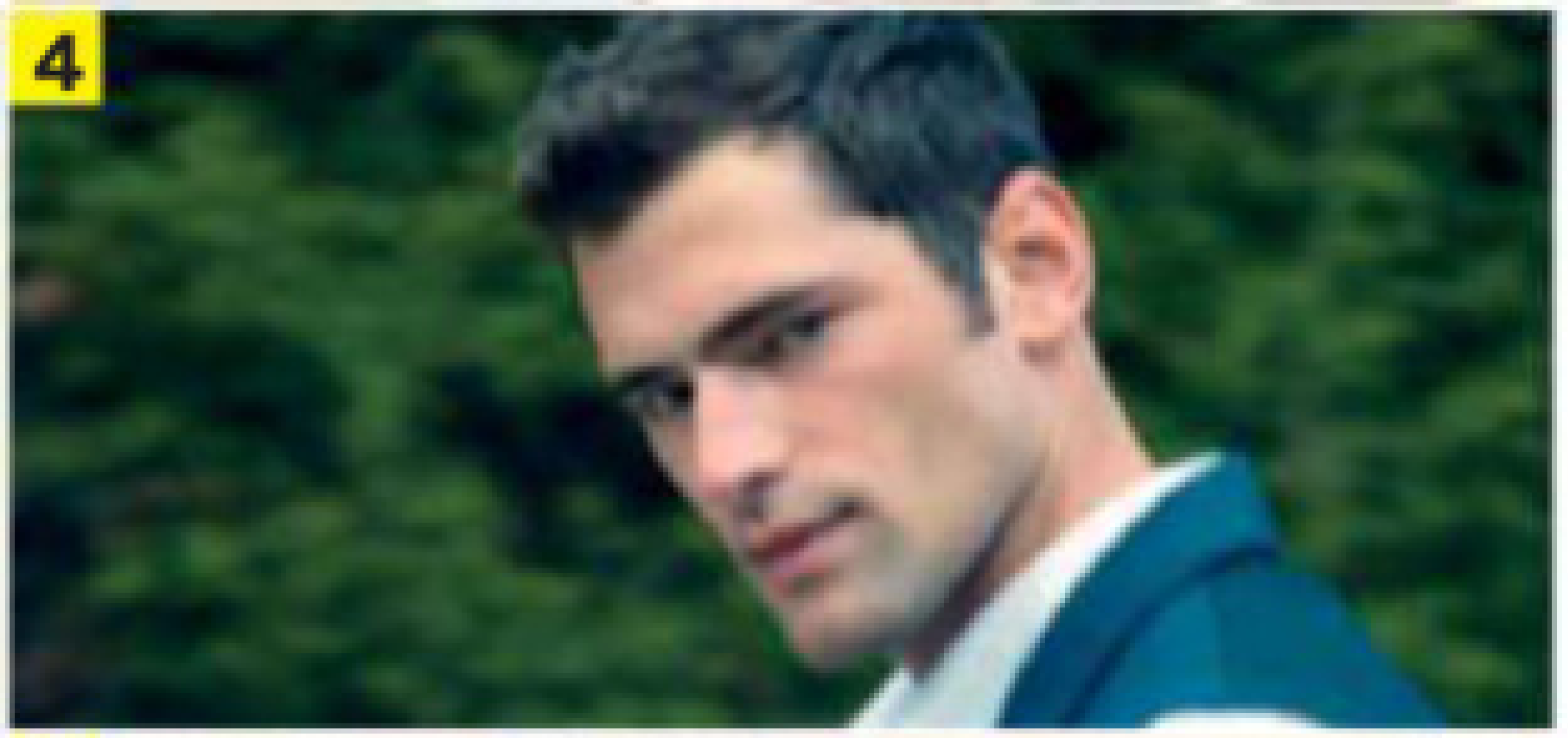

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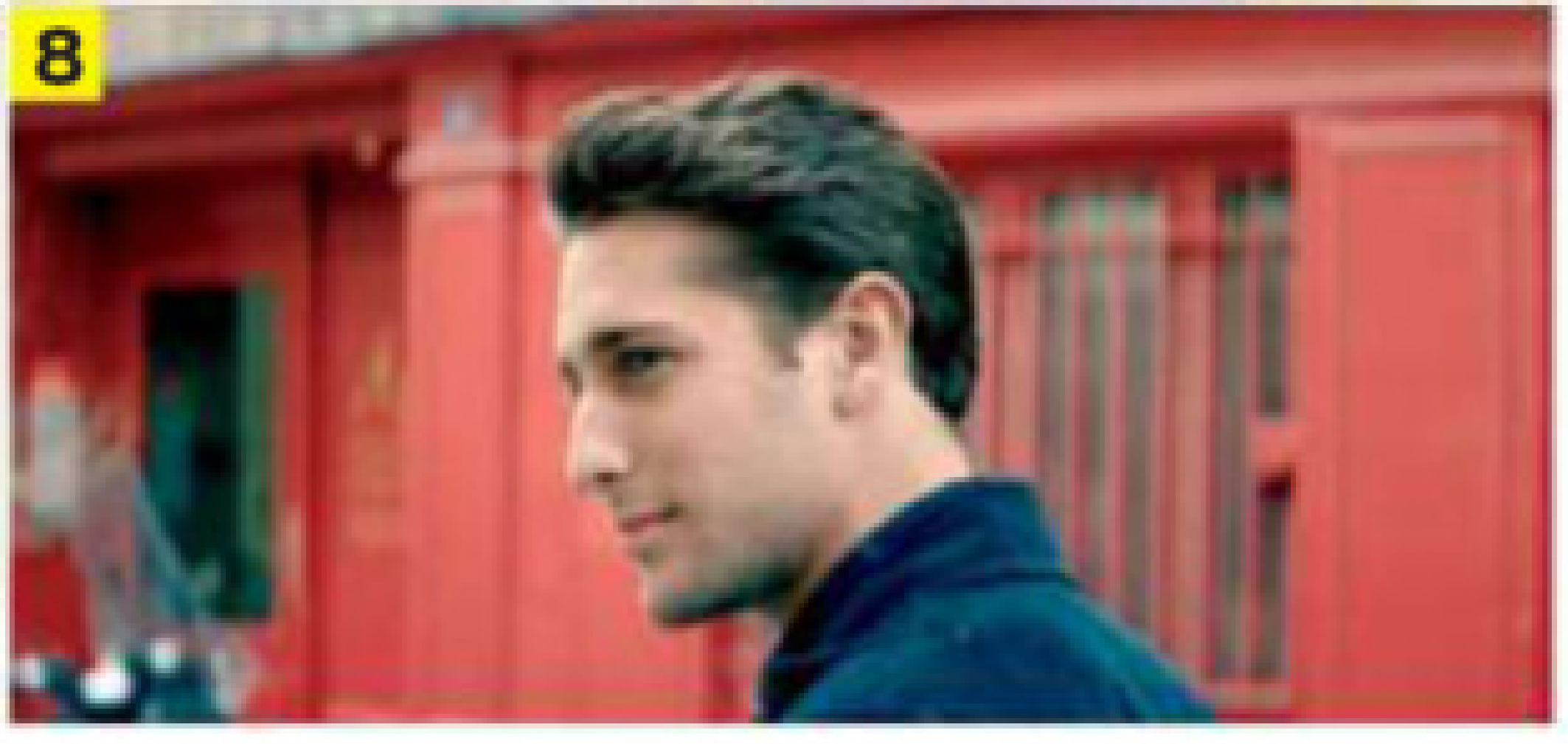


A. "Blank Space" **B.** "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" **C.** "Begin Again" **D.** "You Belong With Me" **E.** "Love Story" **F.** "Back to December" **G.** "Picture to Burn" **H.** "Tim McGraw"

50 Shades of Beige

There's no one in pop music who has **Taylor Swift**'s innate ability to create catchy songs that stick in your head—whether you want them there or not. The men who star in her romantic-fantasy videos, however, aren't quite so memorable. ("Blank Space" indeed.) See if you can match the blandly handsome man-candy with the Swift jam. *—Kat Ward*

1. F; **2.** G; **3.** D; **4.** A; **5.** E; **6.** B; **7.** H; **8.** C

The Return of Underoos

Your favorite childhood jammies are making a comeback—in adult sizes. Trust us, we're excited too.

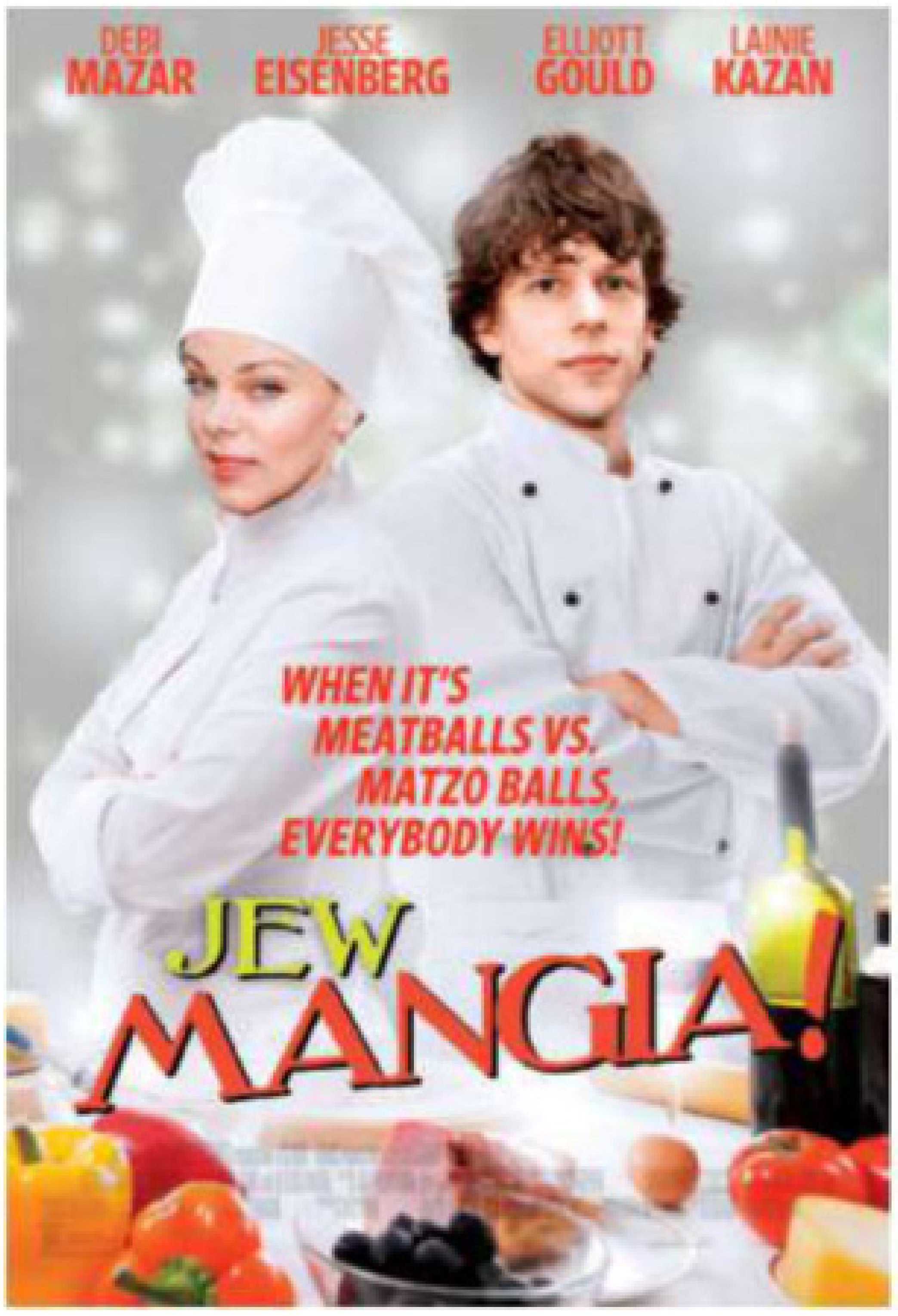
Nerds, cosplayers, and nostalgists rejoice: The gothy retailer Hot Topic is making your skivvy dreams come true. The chain has resurrected Underoos, the matching top and underwear sets printed with comic-book-hero costumes, which were de rigueur for kids who grew up in the '70s and '80s. This time, they're in adult sizes ($25 a set), for those who'd rather kick back with a cocktail than a juice box. Cindy Levitt, the company's SVP of merchandise, says they're barely able to keep up with the demand for designs based on Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman. Unsurprisingly, many buyers are older than the store's typical teen customers. "Nostalgia for the older characters seems to be driving most of the sales," she says. And in 2015, the brand will make even more dreams come true with *Star Wars* Underoos. May the Force be on you. *—Molly Simms*

FAKE MY MOVIE

Chunky Knits Gets a Sequel Of Sorts

After we released our debut fake movie poster for *Chunky Knits* in our Nov. 7 issue, we challenged you to send us your own made-up movie pitches that we could turn into a poster. Chris Stulpin's *Jewmangia!* won our hearts with its spot-on casting, winning plot, and killer tagline. From Stulpin's treatment: "Mia (Debi Mazar) is a street-tough Little Italy restaurateur who has decided she'll be alone for the rest of her life. That's until a glimmer of hope unexpectedly comes her way in the form of Oren (Jesse Eisenberg), a kosher chef from the Lower East Side who has taken an interest in more than her saltimbocca. Oren's grandparents (Elliott Gould and Lainie Kazan) don't approve! The age difference, the religious difference—it's matzo balls versus meatballs. All come together when Mia and Oren take the best of both cultures and give NYC what it's been always looking for: a kosher Italian restaurant."

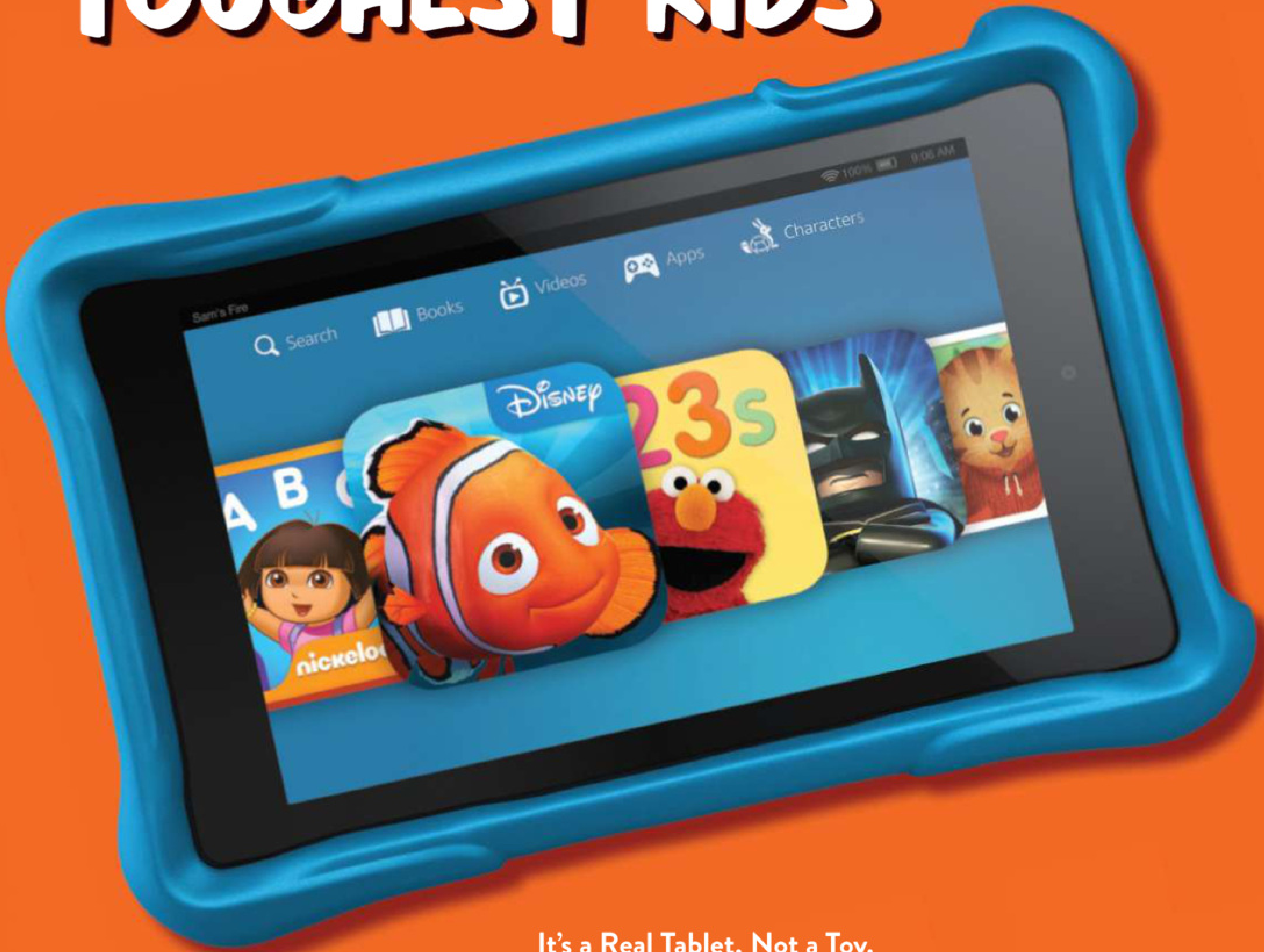
Our online photo editor, Jef Castro, took Stulpin's multi-culti rom-com concept and wove it into the magic you see below. Have an absurd movie concept that needs to see the light of day? Send your one-page treatment to FakeMyMovie@ew.com. You just might see it in our pages. *—Bill Keith*



HEY, JULIANNE MOORE: IF YOU HAD STANLEY TUCCI'S *HUNGER GAMES* POMPADOUR, WHAT WOULD YOU STORE IN IT? "My weed." *—Joking around at the Los Angeles premiere of* The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 1 *on Nov. 17*

JEWMANGIA!: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JEF CASTRO; MAZAR, EISENBERG: STEFANIE KEENAN/WIREIMAGE.COM (2); CHEFS: GETTY IMAGES; MOORE: GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE.COM; TUCCI: MURRAY CLOSE

BUILT FOR EVEN THE TOUGHEST KIDS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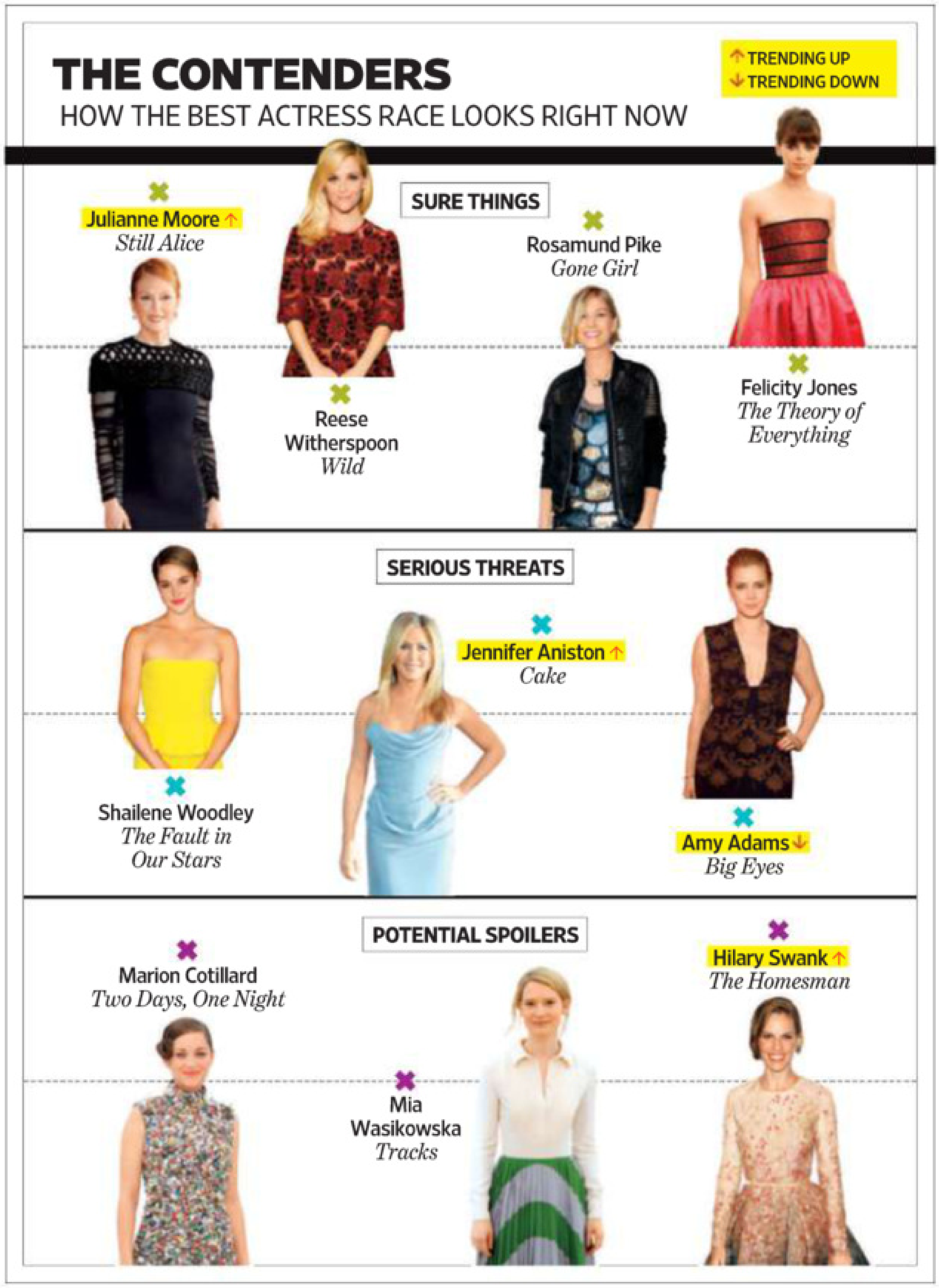
2015 PRIZE FIGHTER

BEST ACTRESS BLUES

Hollywood seemed to forget about powerful leading roles for women this year. Inside Oscar's quietest (and saddest) race. BY NICOLE SPERLING

THANK GOODNESS FOR Reese Witherspoon. Despite a recent surge in strong roles for women (e.g., Cate Blanchett in *Blue Jasmine*, Jennifer Lawrence in *Silver Linings Playbook*), Hollywood really dropped the ball when it came to showcasing interesting roles for actresses in 2014. If it weren't for Witherspoon's newfound strength as a producer, two of this year's likely nominees wouldn't exist, and the Best Actress race would look even more dire than it does. Witherspoon herself is one of the primary contenders, of course, for her portrayal of a novice hiker looking for redemption in the adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's memoir *Wild* (which the actress produced). But she also optioned and developed the box office hit *Gone Girl*, which should land a nomination for Rosamund Pike, playing the iciest (and scariest) wife in modern cinema. Neither of them is the front-runner, however. That position belongs to Julianne Moore. Not only does Moore deliver an unflinching performance as a 50-year-old woman with early-onset Alzheimer's in the low-budget *Still Alice*, the four-time nominee has never gone home with the statuette. She's long overdue for a podium walk.

Rounding out the top four is British actress Felicity Jones, who should garner a spot for her stalwart performance as Jane Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*. And the final nod? Frequent nominee Amy Adams (*Big Eyes*) or frequent winner Hilary Swank (*The Homesman*) could nab it, but they'll have to contend with previous Oscar winner Marion Cotillard (*Two Days, One Night*) and a few Oscar-race newcomers: Mia Wasikowska for her one-woman walkabout in *Tracks*, Shailene Woodley for her cancer-stricken-teen role in *The Fault in Our Stars*, and Jennifer Aniston for her embodiment of a woman battling chronic pain and a broken heart in the indie flick *Cake*. Each of these performances is worthy of acclaim and attention. The shame lies in the fact that there aren't more of them.



THE CONTENDERS

HOW THE BEST ACTRESS RACE LOOKS RIGHT NOW

↑ TRENDING UP
↓ TRENDING DOWN
SURE THINGS
Julianne Moore ↑
Still Alice
Reese Witherspoon
Wild
Rosamund Pike
Gone Girl
Felicity Jones
The Theory of Everything
SERIOUS THREATS
Shailene Woodley
The Fault in Our Stars
Jennifer Aniston ↑
Cake
Amy Adams ↓
Big Eyes
POTENTIAL SPOILERS
Marion Cotillard
Two Days, One Night
Mia Wasikowska
Tracks
Hilary Swank ↑
The Homesman

FOR MORE **OSCAR PREDICTIONS** FROM NICOLE SPERLING, GO TO *EW.COM/ PRIZEFIGHTER*

OSCAR STATUETTE: OSCAR ® STATUETTE © AMPAS ®; MOORE: DAVE J. HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES; WITHERSPOON: MICHAEL KOVAC/*VARIETY*/GETTY IMAGES; PIKE: STEFANIE KEENAN/*VANITY FAIR*/GETTY IMAGES; JONES: MIKE MARSLAND/WIREIMAGE.COM; WOODLEY: JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE.COM; ANISTON: GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE.COM; ADAMS: D. DIPASUPIL/FILMMAGIC.COM; COTILLARD: TONY BARSON/FILMMAGIC.COM; WASIKOWSKA: ANTHONY HARVEY/FILMMAGIC.COM; SWANK: TIBRINA HOBSON/GETTY IMAGES; SPERLING: PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER BEYER

Logo by **MATT LEHMAN**

First LOOK

Jonathan Groff, Frankie J. Alvarez, and Murray Bartlett

RICHARD FOREMAN JR./HBO

Looking Goes Into the Woods

HBO's dramedy about three gay pals (Jonathan Groff, Frankie J. Alvarez, and Murray Bartlett) living in San Francisco returns for its second season on Jan. 11. The boys, in search of some peace, are hitting the great outdoors. "All of them have been in flux since the end of the last season, and they've all been doing their own thing a little bit," explains executive producer Andrew Haigh (*Weekend*). "This first episode is them being determined to spend more time together and go away to Russian River, which is, like, two hours outside San Francisco. It's this really beautiful, tranquil place along the redwoods." But there's no guarantee of smooth sailing. Haigh teases: "They get outdoors. They go canoeing. Things happen." We're guessing they run into at least one or two bears. —*Tim Stack*

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Chart Attack

Blonds triumph this week as Amy Poehler, Meghan Trainor, and Jeff Daniels lead the pack.

BY KAT WARD

18.1M

NUMBER OF VIEWERS FOR THE GREEN BAY PACKERS' WIN OVER THE CHICAGO BEARS

TOP BROADCAST-TV SHOWS

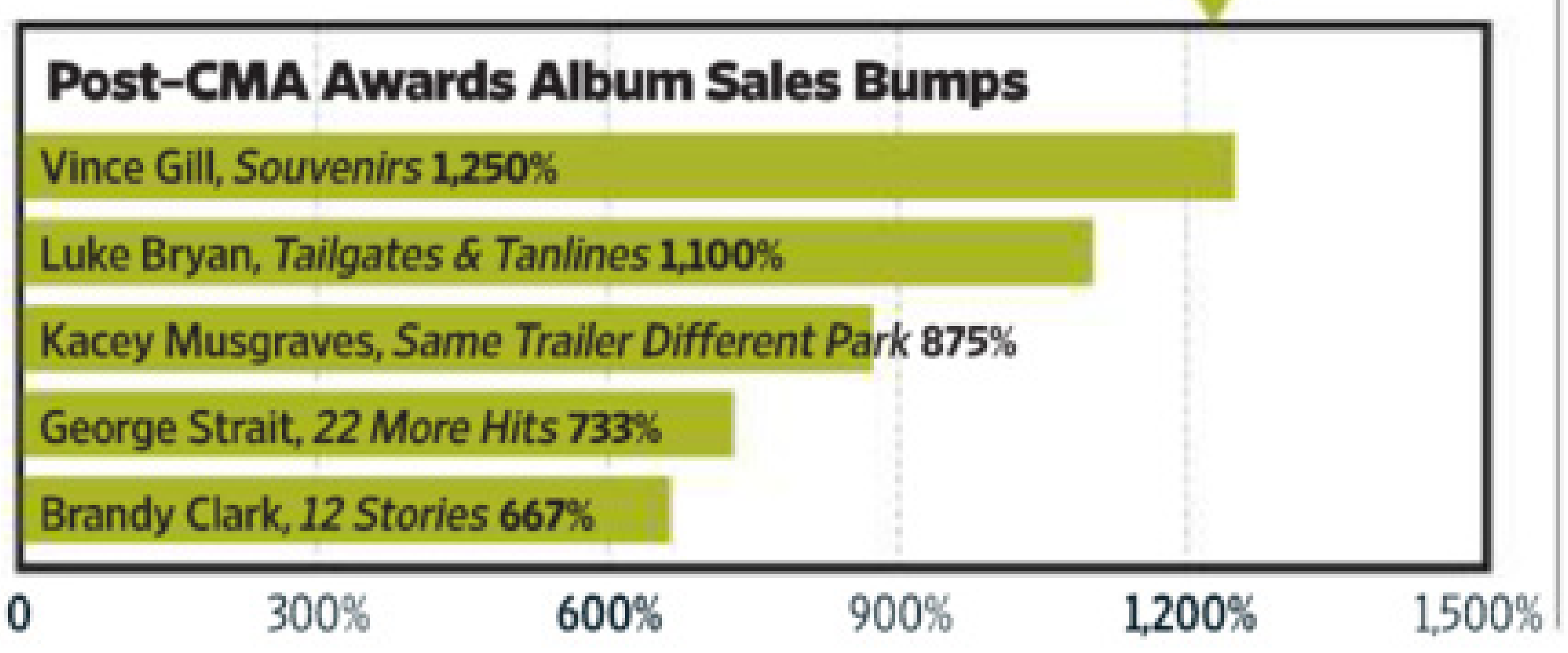
WEEK ENDING NOV. 9

1 **Sunday Night Football** NBC
2 **The Big Bang Theory** CBS
3 **Country Music Association Awards** ABC
4 **Dancing With the Stars** ABC
5 **Madam Secretary** CBS
6 **60 Minutes** CBS
7 **The Voice** NBC
8 **Blue Bloods** CBS
9 **Mom** CBS
10 **The Good Wife** CBS

SOURCE: NIELSEN

▲ *Conventional wisdom treats awards shows as relics of the past. But, as these numbers from Amazon Digital Music show, those prime-time spectacles still drive sales.*

Post-CMA Awards Album Sales Bumps



TOP CABLE-TV SHOWS

WEEK ENDING NOV. 9

1 **The Walking Dead** AMC
2 **Monday Night Football** ESPN
3 **Thursday Night Football** NFL NETWORK
4 **America's Election Headquarters** FOX NEWS
5 **Talking Dead** AMC
6 **NASCAR Sprint Cup** ESPN
7 **American Horror Story: Freak Show** FX
8 **WWE Monday Night Raw** USA
9 **The O'Reilly Factor** FOX NEWS
10 **Sons of Anarchy** FX

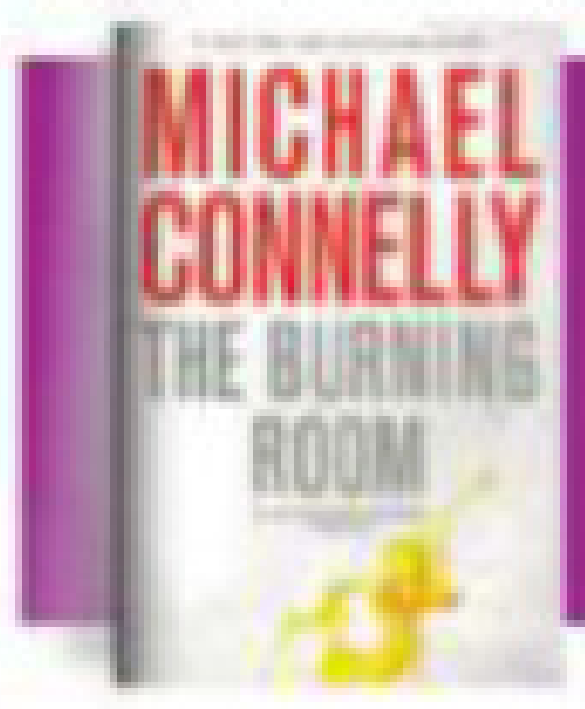
SOURCE: NIELSEN

TOP HARDCOVER FICTION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 9

1 **Gray Mountain** JOHN GRISHAM
2 **The Burning Room** MICHAEL CONNELLY
3 **All the Light We Cannot See** ANTHONY DOERR
4 **Prince Lestat** ANNE RICE
5 **Lila** MARILYNNE ROBINSON
6 **Leaving Time** JODI PICOULT
7 **The Slow Regard of Silent Things** PATRICK ROTHFUSS
8 **Let Me Be Frank With You** RICHARD FORD
9 **Blue Horses** MARY OLIVER
10 **The Goldfinch** DONNA TARTT

SOURCE: AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION; RANKINGS ACCORDING TO THE INDIE BESTSELLER LIST, BASED ON SALES IN INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE



▲ *Connelly's novel sold 37K copies in its debut week but still fell behind Grisham's juggernaut.*

TOP HARDCOVER NONFICTION

WEEK ENDING NOV. 9

1 **Yes Please** AMY POEHLER
2 **Killing Patton** BILL O'REILLY & MARTIN DUGARD
3 **Not That Kind of Girl** LENA DUNHAM
4 **Make It Ahead** INA GARTEN
5 **Being Mortal** ATUL GAWANDE
6 **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little Golden Book** DIANE MULDROW
7 **The Innovators** WALTER ISAACSON
8 **What If?** RANDALL MUNROE
9 **Food: A Love Story** JIM GAFFIGAN
10 **Plenty More** YOTAM OTTOLENGHI

SOURCE: AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION; RANKINGS ACCORDING TO THE INDIE BESTSELLER LIST, BASED ON SALES IN INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE

TOP MOVIES

NOV. 14–16

1 **Dumb and Dumber To** $36.1*
2 **Big Hero 6** $34.7
3 **Interstellar** $28.3
4 **Beyond the Lights** $6.2
5 **Gone Girl** $4.6
6 **St. Vincent** $3.8
7 **Fury** $3.8
8 **Ouija** $3
9 **Nightcrawler** $2.9
10 **Birdman** $2.5

SOURCE: BOX OFFICE MOJO; *DOMESTIC GROSS IN MILLIONS

▲ *The first Dumb and Dumber grossed $16.4M in its opening weekend in 1994.*

TOP ALBUMS

WEEK ENDING NOV. 10

1 **1989** TAYLOR SWIFT
2 **Four (Deluxe Edition)** ONE DIRECTION
3 **Motion** CALVIN HARRIS
4 **Montevallo** SAM HUNT
5 **Bringing Back the Sunshine** BLAKE SHELTON
6 **It's the Girls** BETTE MIDLER
7 **Sonic Highways** FOO FIGHTERS
8 **Hozier** HOZIER
9 **Broke With Expensive Taste** AZEALIA BANKS
10 **In the Lonely Hour** SAM SMITH

SOURCE: ITUNES

TOP SONGS

WEEK ENDING NOV. 10

1 **All About That Bass** MEGHAN TRAINOR
2 **Blank Space** TAYLOR SWIFT
3 **Shake It Off** TAYLOR SWIFT
4 **Take Me to Church** HOZIER
5 **Animals** MAROON 5
6 **The Heart Wants What It Wants** SELENA GOMEZ
7 **Something in the Water** CARRIE UNDERWOOD
8 **Bang Bang** JESSIE J, ARIANA GRANDE, NICKI MINAJ
9 **I'm Not the Only One** SAM SMITH
10 **Habits (Stay High)** TOVE LO

SOURCE: ITUNES

▲ *The new single from 22-year-old Selena Gomez's "greatest hits" collection sold 102K downloads.*

AARON RODGERS: JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES; *DUMB AND DUMBER TO*: HOPPER STONE; GILL: SARA KAUSS/WIREIMAGE.COM; GOMEZ: KRISTY SPARROW/WIREIMAGE.COM

THE BOLD NEW
CAMRY
ONE BOLD CHOICE LEADS TO ANOTHER.
TOYOTA
Let's Go Places

Got in my Camry.
Went on a treasure hunt.
Met a guy who knew a guy.
Found some rare collectibles.
Then I found the Holy Grail.
Literally.
Ditched my competition.
Hid in a barn.
Best conversation piece ever.

The 2015 Camry with a sporty, high-tech interior.
toyota.com/camry
Prototype shown with options. Production model will vary. ©2014 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

Brittany Snow, Anna Kendrick, and Rebel Wilson photographed on Sept. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles

EXCLUSIVE FIRST LOOK

GAME ON, PITCHES!

No one thought it would be a hit. (Too much singing, not enough superheroes.) But Pitch Perfect belted its way into a $113 million worldwide grand slam, spawning a smash single and a DVD sensation. Now the balladeer Bellas are back for another a cappella ass whupping. And we've totally got a toner.

BY Tim Stack PHOTOGRAPHS BY Robert Trachtenberg

THE BARDEN BELLAS

But before you scream "A ca-scuse me?!" it's just a temporary separation. On this muggy June day in Baton Rouge, La., the cast of *Pitch Perfect 2*, the sequel to Universal's sleeper about a college a cappella group, is pulling double duty. Rebel Wilson (returning as blunt bombshell Fat Amy) and Brittany Snow (back as dim bulb Chloe) are cloistered in the production offices, recording and preparing for dance rehearsal. It sounds way more glam than it is. Instead of catered cuisine, the stars can dine on granola bars while huddling in a kitchenette, and the recording studio is plunked down so close to railroad tracks that everything rumbles when a train rolls by. Still, it's a major step up from the original. "On the first movie, we didn't have probably one-third of the things we have now," Snow says. "It looks like *Transformers* is filming here."

Meanwhile, a few miles away, Anna Kendrick and Skylar Astin, reprising their roles as vocal power couple Beca and Jesse, are shooting Beca's first day of work as an intern at a recording company. "Any first-day jitters?" Jesse asks. "No," Beca responds. "I'm just going to be moody and distant—artists love that, right?" If anyone has slight jitters, it's the woman behind the camera: actress Elizabeth Banks (the *Hunger Games* franchise), who executive-produced the original and appeared in a small role as sassy judge Gail. She's now making her feature-directing debut. "This is the stupidest idea I've ever had," she jokes during a break in shooting. "My first movie is this huge studio movie that a lot of people care about that also happens to be a musical with massive dance numbers. I don't know what I was thinking."

But *Pitch Perfect* is all about defying the odds. Released in September 2012, the movie, directed by Jason Moore (*Avenue Q*) and written by Kay Cannon (*30 Rock*), focused on a ragtag a cappella group at a Southern college and their surly but sensational new recruit, Beca. The film earned solid reviews and grossed $65 million in the U.S. "It was pretty modest," Banks says. "But it engendered a lot of love. That's what we could not have foreseen."

Pitch almost doubled its box office overseas, raking in an additional $48 million from 37 countries. And back in the U.S., it exploded into a DVD blockbuster, boosted by Kendrick's

(PREVIOUS SPREAD AND FOLLOWING SPREAD) STYLING: ELIZABETH STEWART/THE WALL GROUP; HAIR: ROBERT VETICA/ROBERT VETICA SALONS; MAKEUP: MATTHEW VANLEEUWEN/THE WALL GROUP; MANICURE: LISA JACHNO/LABNAILS; SET DESIGN: WALTER BARNETT/OPUS BEAUTY; PRODUCTION: BROOKE LUDI PRODUCTION; SNOW'S AND KENDRICK'S SHOES: ALDO; EARRINGS: M.C.L.; WILSON'S SHOES: JIMMY CHOO

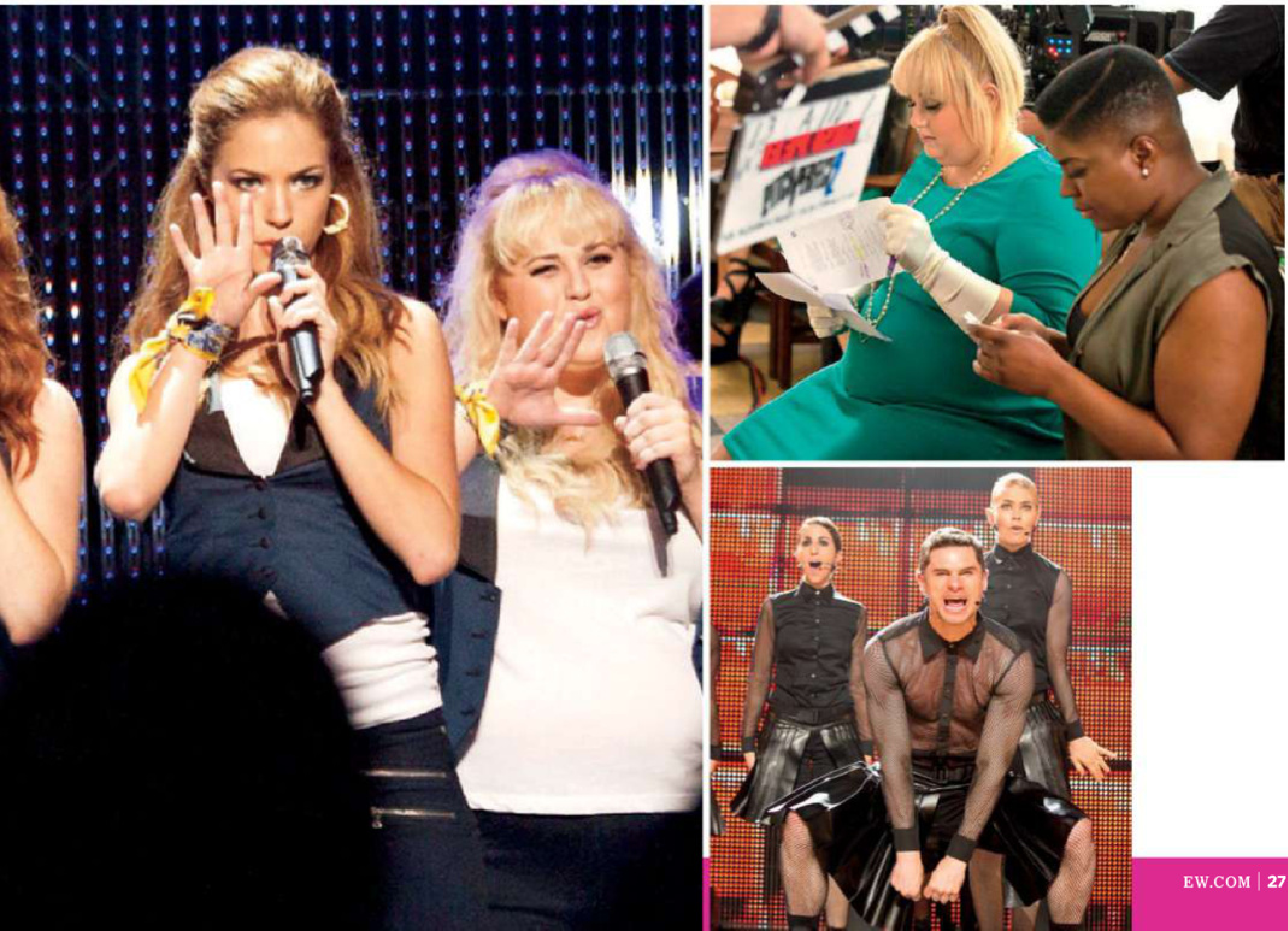
Lettering by **GILLIAN MacLEOD**

HAVE SPLIT UP!

"Cups" single (see sidebar, page 28) and a platinum-selling soundtrack. "*Pitch* performed on DVD like a movie that did at least twice what its theatrical business was," says Peter Cramer, Universal's co-president of production. All of which fast-tracked the sequel. "It went from 'Boy, it would be great to do this!' to 'We must do this!'"

The little comedy that could is now striving for franchise status. *Pitch Perfect 2* will swing into theaters on May 15, 2015, facing off against some of the biggest guns of the summer. (*Avengers: Age of Ultron* opens two weeks earlier.) "The first film flew under the radar, and it was a gift," says Banks. "This time around, much higher stakes." And the studio knows it. "Everybody is much more involved," she adds. "As the saying goes, 'Success has many fathers.'"

Months after shooting on *PP2* has wrapped, Banks sits inside a cavernous mixing stage on the Sony lot finalizing her movie's sound mix. She screens about 25 minutes of the film for EW that includes a major set piece: a new version of the "Riff-Off," a swagger-fueled musical battle between multiple groups. In the first film, this improvisational sing-off took place in an empty swimming pool. This



(Clockwise from left) Hailee Steinfeld, Kendrick, Snow, Alexis Knapp, and Wilson; Wilson and Ester Dean; Flula Borg (center) and Birgitte Sørensen (right)

RICHARD CARTWRIGHT (3)

time, it's at the mansion of an eccentric a cappella devotee played by David Cross (*Arrested Development*). Think the ultimate karaoke contest, but with top-notch teams belting out Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats," Bell Biv DeVoe's "Poison," and Taylor Swift's "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Pitch Perfect 2 is set three years after the first film, and most of the Bellas, including Beca and Fat Amy, are now seniors. (Chloe should have finished college already, but she has failed on purpose for three years to stick with the group.) The Bellas are no longer underdogs, but the hottest a cappella team around, attracting both new members—e.g., freshman Emily (*Begin Again*'s Hailee Steinfeld; see sidebar, page 30)—and fresh competition in the form of German team Das Sound Machine. (YouTube star Flula Borg plays their leader.) Fun, right? But there was just one teeny tiny problem with creating Teutonic villains: *Pitch Perfect* is huge in Germany. The original film grossed more there than in any other non-English-speaking country. Studio executives watched the script like U.N. peacekeepers. "There were so many jokes that I would get notes on," says returning screenwriter Cannon. "Like, 'The Germans love this movie so much. Don't be too mean toward the Germans!'" (*Entschuldigung, Freunde*.)

As we rejoin the Bellas, Beca and Jesse are still happily together, but now the other girls are getting some action too. Fat Amy's flirtation with Bumper (Adam DeVine) in the first film goes to a whole new level. "She's really freaky," Cannon says. "And he's like, 'Okay. I guess I'll do that!'" But, as they say, lucky in love, unlucky at...well,

'CUPS': THE STORY OF A THING

How an audition song in *Pitch Perfect* performed with only a plastic cup became a *Billboard* sensation

A song really can change your life. "Cups"—a rendition of the 1931 tune "When I'm Gone" that Anna Kendrick's Beca sings in *Pitch Perfect*—has sold more than 3.5 million copies. "That tickled me so much," Kendrick says, laughing. "Every person on the *Billboard* charts at that time, which was, like, Miley Cyrus and Macklemore, had to have had a conversation with their friends going, 'Who the f--- is this girl?'" Here, a timeline of a musical phenomenon. —TIM STACK

SEPT. 25, 2012
The a cappella version of "Cups" is released on the *Pitch Perfect* soundtrack.

PITCH PERFECT

PITCH PERFECT 2: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT; KENDRICK: PETER IOVINO

(From left) Snow, Wilson, and Kendrick; Jason Jones, Elizabeth Banks, and Adam DeVine

everything else. As the film kicks off, the Bellas tarnish their gleaming reputation. "We kind of disgrace ourselves very publicly," Wilson says. Seeking redemption, the team enters the world championships, going up against the best groups on earth (including one played by YouTube phenom Pentatonix). In other words, expect epic production numbers. "I've been training with this coach from Cirque du Soleil for the opening sequence," Wilson says, not joking. "It is a little bit inspired by Pink's performance." That would be the showstopper at the 2010 Grammys where Pink sang "Glitter in the Air" suspended from the ceiling in trapeze silks. "It is extremely difficult," Wilson says. "They couldn't get a stunt double my size to do it, so they said, 'Let's just make Rebel do it. Is she afraid of heights? Yes? Let's put her up there. That should be hilarious.' "

Despite the success of the original, Banks wasn't sure, initially, that a sequel was a good idea. She and her husband/producing partner, Max Handelman, had developed the first film from Mickey Rapkin's nonfiction book of the same title, and they felt protective of the property and the characters. Serious sequel talks with the studio began in January 2013 but evolved in fits and starts. "We didn't want to be exploitative," Banks says. "We wanted to make sure we had more to say about these characters and more story to tell without straying far from the original. That's a tricky balance to strike." Cannon eventually latched onto the idea of the Bellas facing graduation. "To me, that's a great story," she says. "You see them when they form [the group], and then you see them as they leave."

Banks and Handelman wanted Jason Moore to return as director, but he had already committed to helm the Tina Fey/Amy Poehler comedy *The Nest* (out in December 2015). They tried to find a way for him to do both but couldn't get the schedules of the two films to align. They needed a new director. Fast.

Universal chairman Donna Langley had seen a short film that Banks had

JAN. 5, 2013 "Cups" hits No. 25 on *Billboard*'s Bubbling Under Hot 100.

APRIL 6, 2013 A pop version of the tune enters the *Billboard* Hot 100.

APRIL 12, 2013 Kendrick premieres the video on her Vevo channel; it racks up more than 165 million views.

AUG. 17, 2013 The song reaches No. 6 on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

(From top) the Bellas; behind the scenes on the Pitch Perfect 2 *set*

directed for the American Heart Foundation and suggested that the actress step in for Moore. Banks had been looking for a script to direct, but a movie of this scale was a huge leap for a newbie. Her intimate knowledge of the source material, and her years of industry experience, persuaded her to take the plunge. Even now, though, she still sometimes wonders how she got roped into this gig. "I'm responsible for choosing all of the songs and approving all of the arrangements, and I don't know how qualified I am for all this s---," she says, laughing.

Music is as critical to *Pitch Perfect 2* as visual effects were to *Guardians of the Galaxy*. And just as hard to get right. Dozens of things can go wrong in the journey from page to screen. Cannon will write actual songs into the script, but whether they *stay* in the script depends on a host of variables, including whether the song is available, whether it's affordable, and whether it actually sounds good. It requires an entire team of people to pull that off. "I take a lot of opinions into consideration," says Banks, who has final say on which songs make the cut. "Certain things don't arrange well in a cappella." Or simply don't sound fresh enough. The success of "Cups" aside, Banks insists you will not see a sequel full of actresses banging away on beverage containers. "'Cups' was such an organic discovery by the audience that it's impossible to replicate," she says. Not that Kendrick wasn't tempted. Kinda. "I was thinking about doing one with pots and pans," she jokes. "Just get real angry and f--- some s--- up."

If *PP2* hits with audiences, Universal is prepared to move forward with *Pitch Perfect 3*. Kendrick, at least, has developed a can't-miss plan to make sure the sequel blows the doors off the box office. "We've got a foulmouthed teddy bear, we've got the Black Widow, and we've got Rosamund Pike," she says. "We just want to give people everything they could possibly want." And we thought Fat Amy in a silk sling was enough. ■

MEET THE NEW BELLA

Hailee Steinfeld plays freshman Emily, a stellar singer with a family secret

By the end of *Pitch Perfect 2*, most of the Bellas will be graduating from college. So the series needed fresh blood. Freshman blood, to be exact. Enter Emily, played by 17-year-old Hailee Steinfeld (*True Grit*). Emily is a legacy Bella—her mother (*Sons of Anarchy*'s Katey Sagal) was in the group. But Emily wants to be admitted on her own merits. "She has her insecurities, and she wants to know that she's a Bella because she's a great singer and she's a great performer," Steinfeld says. "She doesn't want to pull the [legacy] card." Em's a bit of the wide-eyed little sister, in other words. "Emily is the future of the group," says director Elizabeth Banks. "That's really her role—to be the fresh eyes into the sorority." And Steinfeld embraced it. Being the new kid usually blows, but the actress jumped at the chance to dive into the *Pitch Perfect* world. "It's kind of surreal as a fan of the first movie," she says. "Being a part of this and seeing how it all happens is really exciting." Ah, freshmen... —TIM STACK

THE BELLAS: TODD MACMILLAN; *PITCH PERFECT 2*, STEINFELD: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT (2)

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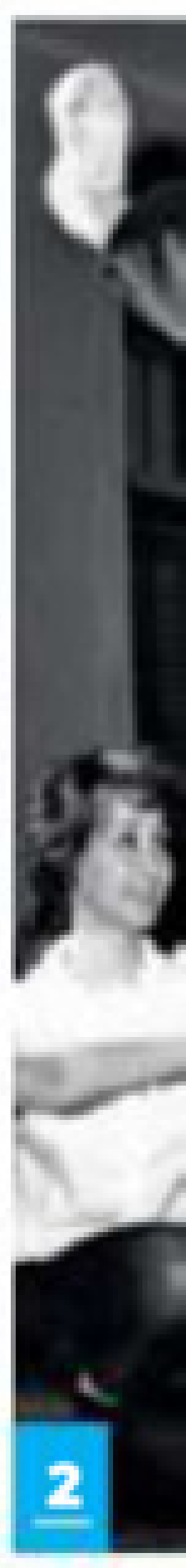
Christopher Walken on the set of *Peter Pan Live!*

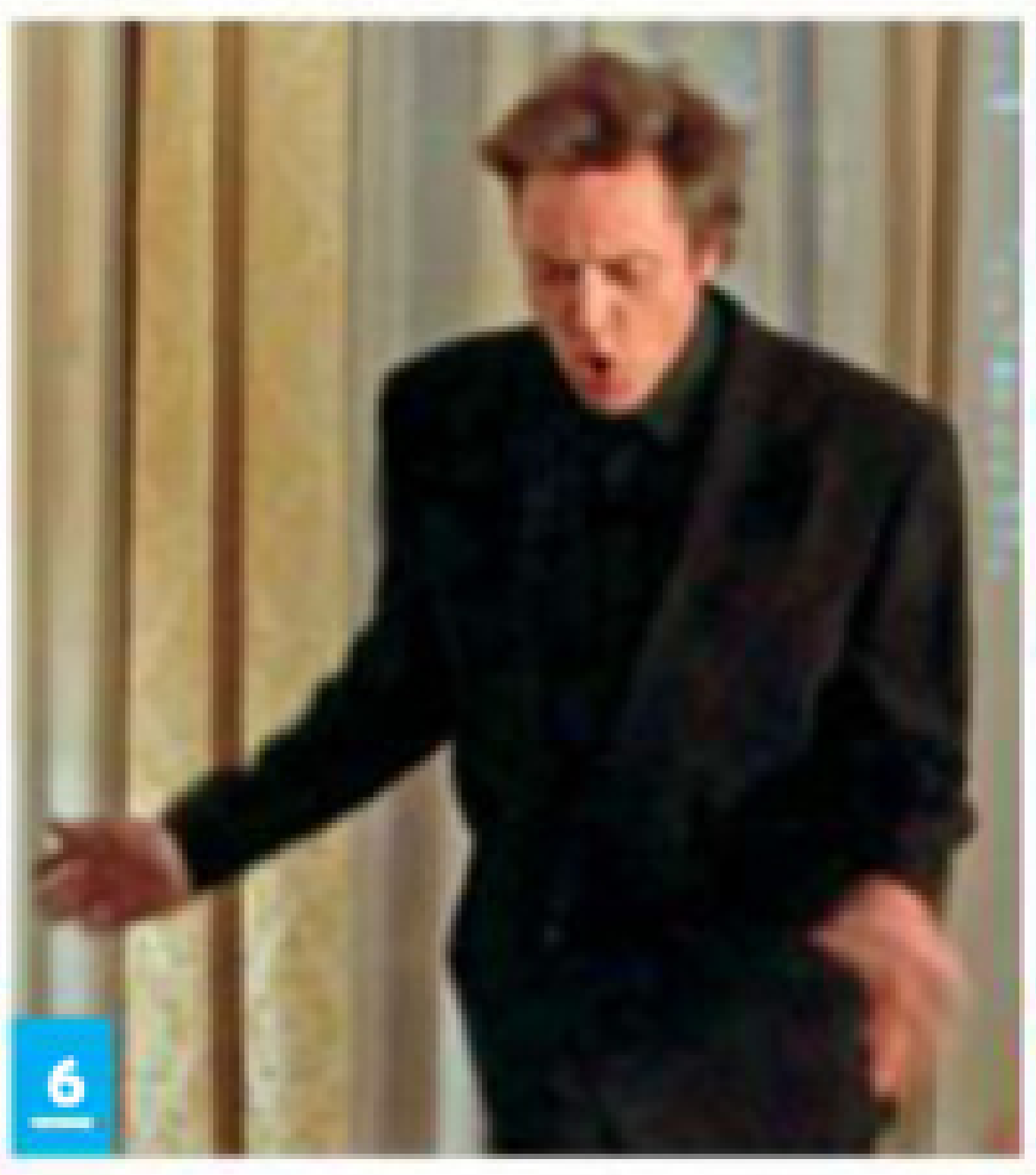
Christopher Walken Just Wants To Dance

The Oscar-winning actor will make his prime-time dancing debut as **CAPTAIN HOOK** *in NBC's* ***PETER PAN LIVE!*** *this December. But he's no musical amateur. Just ask Liza Minnelli, Fatboy Slim, or Howdy Doody.* BY CLARK COLLIS

"WHO IS THE GREATEST VILLAIN OF ALL TIME?" demands Christopher Walken, standing aboard a ship's deck on a Long Island soundstage. An obvious answer would be Walken himself. During his lengthy and mayhem-filled movie career, he has shot an unarmed Dennis Hopper in *True Romance*, taken out a hit on Andy Garcia in *Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead*, and plotted a watery death for the entire population of Silicon Valley in the Bond movie *A View to a Kill*. But today something is very different about Walken. Soon after delivering that line he begins to sing—wearing full pirate regalia, a long black wig, and a hook on his left hand.

Walken, 71, is rehearsing his role as Captain Hook in *Peter Pan Live!*—a follow-up to last year's Carrie Underwood-starring *The Sound of Music Live!*—which





NBC will broadcast on Dec. 4 with Allison Williams as the boy who won't grow up. The role requires Walken to sing around half a dozen songs and execute a tap number. But what does a man best known for playing murderers know about killer dance moves? In fact, quite a lot. Walken is not an actor who dabbles in dance but rather a dancer who fell into acting. He studied tap as a kid, toured in a musical, and even strutted his stuff alongside a teenage Liza Minnelli. "I think that if he had been around in the heyday of MGM, he would have been a big star of musicals on film," says exec producer Craig Zadan, who is banking in part on Walken's appeal to generate the same kind of buzz that turned *The Sound of Music* into a blockbuster event, with nearly 22 million viewers tuning in to enjoy (or, in some cases, ridicule) the program.

As Walken himself puts it in his unmistakable, baroquely punctuated tones: "I always kind of liked putting on a show, you know."

IN HOLLYWOOD, WALKEN HAS WORKED WITH THE greats: De Niro, Streep, Spielberg, Eastwood. But in his youth, he had slightly less prestigious peers: a performing monkey, an old lion—and even Howdy Doody.

The actor was born Ronald Walken in Queens on March 31, 1943, which—those who believe in portents may care to note—was also the opening night of the Broadway smash *Oklahoma!* His German father operated a bakery while his Scottish mother funneled her energy into trying to make stars of her three sons. "My mother was a—what's the word?—a fan," says the actor, as if he has genuinely never used the word before. "She loved show business."

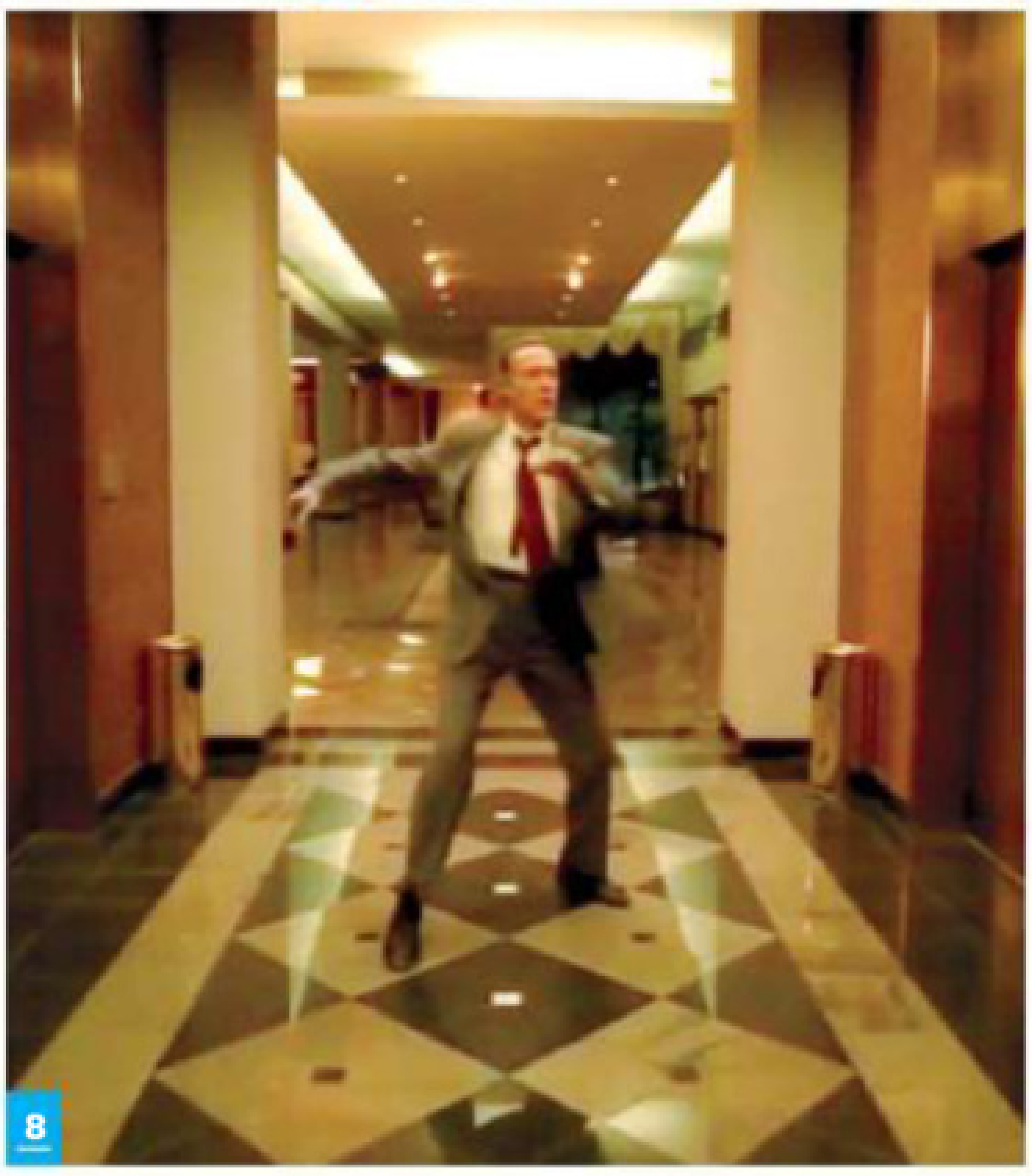
Walken was a child performer **(1)** who began his musical career around the age of 7 as an extra in an amateur production of *Madame Butterfly*. Growing up, he took dance lessons on the side with choreographer Danny Daniels, who would win a Tony in 1984 for his work on *The Tap Dance Kid*. By the time Walken was 10 he was regularly appearing on TV in variety specials. "I remember doing them with Lucille Ball, Danny Thomas, Jack Benny," he recalls. "I saw Howdy Doody in his box. When he wasn't working, they'd put him in his box! And there was that chimpanzee, J. Fred Muggs. He was very famous." Walken even spent one summer as an apprentice lion tamer. "It was with a circus owned by this man named Terrell Jacobs," he says. "He was a lion tamer, and I pretended to be his son. At the end he would send all the lions out except this one old girl sitting on a box. She was very sweet, really. I would come in and I would wave my whip and she would kind of sit up. And that was it!"

In college, Walken studied English but left when he landed a part in an Off Broadway revival of *Best Foot Forward* **(2)** with a 17-year-old Liza Minnelli. "I think we made 55 dollars a week," he says. "It was a pretty good show, as I recall." Minnelli has fond memories of working with Walken. "I'd been around dancers my whole life, having watched my parents make musicals at MGM, and Chris reminded me of so many of the dancers I knew growing up," says the *Cabaret* star. "He's talented in every way."

Walken later danced backup for a Belgian cabaret singer—who insisted on changing his name to Christopher—and played the character Riff in a touring production of *West Side Story*, where he met his future wife, Georgianne. The musical also introduced Walken to Broadway legend-in-the-making Michael Bennett. "They didn't want to pay the fees of [original choreographer] Jerome Robbins," remembers Walken. "If you used their choreography, you had to pay them. So they had this kid, and in eight days he rechoreographed *West Side Story*. It was Michael Bennett."

Then a couple of terrible things happened, at least for Walken's song-and-dance career: People started taking him seriously as a stage actor, and Hollywood began moving away from musicals after flops such as 1969's *Hello Dolly!* So Walken's early big-screen roles were nonmusicals like the 1971 thriller *The Anderson Tapes* and Woody Allen's *Annie Hall* in 1977. By the time he won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his turn as a Vietnam

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) VIRGINIA SHERWOOD/NBC (5); (THIS PAGE) WALKEN AS A CLOWN: AL BARRY/THREE LIONS/GETTY IMAGES; *HAIRSPRAY*: DAVID JAMES



vet in the 1978 film *The Deer Hunter*, his reputation as a heavyweight actor was set in stone. "There was a funny confluence of things: In *Annie Hall* I was this suicidal brother, and then I did *The Deer Hunter*, where I shoot myself," says Walken, forming his hand into a gun and holding it to his head. "So there was kind of a dark thing."

Yet he still looked for the chance to dance whenever possible. In 1981 his old teacher Daniels put him up for *Pennies From Heaven* **(3)**, where Walken memorably tapped to Cole Porter's "Let's Misbehave." A few years later, he cut a rug in *Puss in Boots* **(4)**, for which he dyed his hair to play a ginger cat who has been magically transformed into a person. "I thought I was very good as the cat!" he says, stroking his mustache in a decidedly Puss-like fashion. "The cat they used, he lived with me in my trailer. He would sleep in the bed."

Walken wouldn't appear in another real movie musical until 2007's *Hairspray* **(5)**, produced by his future *Pan* EPs, Zadan and Neil Meron. In the meantime, he became Hollywood's favorite villain and/or weirdo in projects as varied as the 1989 alien-abduction tale *Communion*, 1993's *Wayne's World 2*, and the obscure 1995 drama *Search and Destroy*. One thing those films *do* have in common? Walken dances in every damn one of them—even *Communion*, in which he dances with *aliens*. "For a long time, if I was in a scene, and I just had a moment where I felt free to do that, I would throw in a little step," says Walken.

Earlier this year, a video compilation of Walken's best dance scenes, including sequences from *King of New York* **(6)** and *Undertaking Betty* **(7)**, went viral. Walken says he has heard about the clip but hasn't seen it. He won't be providing the Internet more fodder anytime soon. "People started to bring it up," he says of his impromptu dancing. "And I thought, 'Yeah, you're overdoing that.' So I've stopped." Walken's hoofing was also showcased in Spike Jonze's 2001 video for Fatboy Slim's "Weapon of Choice" **(8)**. While the video seemed like an odd choice at the time, Walken says it was a no-brainer: "You think, 'Well, do it now!' You know, you get too decrepit to dance."

Today is not that day. Back on Long Island, Walken looks a long way from decrepitude as he rehearses for *Pan* alongside Tony winner Christian Borle, who plays both Mr. Darling and Smee. Borle says viewers should look out for Hook's tap dancing in a newly added number called "Vengeance." "Every single time we break into the tap break, it feels like history being made," he says. "He just has a whole different way with rhythm. 'Walken-esque' is the only way I can describe it. I think that's the thing that's going to make people lose their s---."

Walken has equally impressed his costar Williams, who turned to him for advice on negotiating Peter's aerial acrobatics. "I was just asking him about his flying in the Fatboy Slim video," she says during a break. "We were comparing notes."

The producers didn't even need to reach out to Walken to play Hook—his camp contacted them. "I wish we could take credit for it," says Meron. "In reality, when we were first going about the casting process, I got a call from his agent and she said, 'How about Chris?' I went, 'Oh my God, that is a great idea.' We exposed him to the material and he said, 'As long as I can dance a lot.' And we said, '*No* problem.'"

Walken admits he will have a few nerves come Dec. 4—even though this will technically be the second time he has played a pirate on stage this year. In September, Walken appeared in a show at Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for children coping with serious illness. He interrupted a performance of the *VeggieTales* song "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" to tease his kiddie costars about the nonsensical lyrics. "Pirates don't kiss chipmunks! There's no chipmunk kissing!" he growled, very Walkenly. It would be easy to assume the kids were terrified out of their little minds. But Walken insists otherwise. "I was a pirate," he says, sounding more softy than psycho. "They had fun!" ■

BEST FOOT FORWARD: EVERETT COLLECTION; *PENNIES FROM HEAVEN*, *UNDERTAKING BETTY*: © MGM/EVERETT COLLECTION (2)

JASON BATEMAN, CHARLIE DAY, AND JASON SUDEIKIS PHOTOGRAPHED ON NOV. 8, 2014, IN BEVERLY HILLS

NSFW

GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY WITH THE GUYS OF **HORRIBLE BOSSES 2**

BY
ANTHONY BREZNICAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ERIC RAY DAVIDSON

Sudeikis, Day, and Bateman

AT THE END OF A LONG DAY,

WHEN THE DUDES FROM *HORRIBLE BOSSES 2* ARE READY TO TAKE THEIR JOBS AND SHOVE THEM, HOW DO JASON BATEMAN, CHARLIE DAY, AND JASON SUDEIKIS KICK BACK AND ENJOY MILLER TIME?

(HINT: FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THEM, IT'S SOMETHING A LITTLE STRONGER THAN MILLER...)

IN 2011'S *Horrible Bosses*, Nick (Bateman), Kurt (Sudeikis), and Dale (Day) were hapless drones plotting revenge upon their sadistic overlords, but in the sequel (rated R, out Nov. 26), the trio go into business for themselves. Their plans to mass-produce an all-in-one bathing apparatus—the Shower Buddy—go astray when a SkyMall-style marketer (Christoph Waltz) and his selfish son (Chris Pine) set them up for ruin. There's a kidnapping, a car chase, and the return of some familiar sinister faces: Kevin Spacey as the emasculating ex-boss, Jennifer Aniston as the sexually omnivorous dentist, and Jamie Foxx as "crime consultant" Motherf---er Jones. The trio discover that even the self-employed can be their own worst enemies.

With the setting sun casting gold and pink light across the palm-lined streets below, Bateman, Day, and Sudeikis sit down on the rooftop of the Beverly Hilton Hotel to chat. Although they're technically on the clock, things get Not Safe for Work fast.

So, on a night out after a killer workweek, what would be your beverage of choice?

JASON SUDEIKIS A double Jack on the rocks, a nice tequila—Casa Dragones with salt on the rim and a lime. And then a double vodka on the Uber ride home.

CHARLIE DAY I like to think I'm more sophisticated than this, but truth be told, outside of maybe a martini here or there, I'm a beer guy.

What's your brand?

SUDEIKIS Here comes a case of it, so just be real careful.

DAY [*Scratches chin*] I like a Sapporo.

JASON BATEMAN Ah, *konnichiwa*!

DAY Then I'll maybe have a glass of sake. And then beer in a plastic cup with a Ping-Pong ball floating in it.

SUDEIKIS A red cup—that you flipped over and won?

DAY [*Laughs*] I'm gonna go to a nice restaurant and say, "Give me a Budweiser in a plastic cup!"

[*To Bateman*] You've been sober for many years, so what do you order when you're out?

BATEMAN If you can believe it, I'm a big water fan.

SUDEIKIS Flat or sparkling?

BATEMAN Flat. The sparkling upsets my tummy.

When you have two guys on set named Jason, does one of you end up with a nickname?

SUDEIKIS I'm just Suds. People have called me that for years. People call you Bateman, right?

BATEMAN Mastur-Bateman is always a real fun one.

SUDEIKIS Really? You get that?

BATEMAN [*Sighs*] I get it a bit.

How much improvising happens on a movie like this?

SUDEIKIS Not as much as you'd think. It feels like a compliment that people ask that.

DAY There are shades and different colors on the same thing, but there's a pretty intricate plot. You can't go too far off the page.

BATEMAN There's a certain amount of flexibility on the set when it comes to coming up with a funny final joke.

SUDEIKIS Yeah—buttons, or the ways into scenes. Those can easily be trimmed. So it's not too masturbatory on our end.

Again with the masturbation. Nick, Kurt, and Dale get into more life-destroying criminal activity in this sequel. Why are they even friends, let alone in business together?

SUDEIKIS It's basically me being

the id, Bateman being the ego, and Charlie being the superego. Charlie's operating for the good of his family, Bateman is vacillating between being good and bad, and with me it's the overt sexual nature of my character.

Nick is the worrier, Kurt's the overconfident one, and Dale is just the mess.

DAY The frantic ass. [*Bateman picks up Sudeikis' drink and raises it to his nose.*] Hey, man, don't do that.

SUDEIKIS He's just giving it a sniff.

BATEMAN It's a sense memory. It puts me right back in the restaurant, in the bar, whatever.

DAY That's frowned upon in certain circles.

BATEMAN What, sniffing? In the sober circles? No way.

SUDEIKIS That's the test! If you can have booze in the house still.

BATEMAN I think we do have a ton of booze in the house.

SUDEIKIS You should. [*Laughs*] For others!

BATEMAN [*Shakes head*] The wife is always thirsty. [*Laughs*]

Do you guys make each other laugh like this during takes?

DAY We laughed a lot on this one.

Who's the worst?

SUDEIKIS AND BATEMAN [*Simultaneously*] Charlie Day.

DAY These guys, they, uh...know my funny bone.

BATEMAN You're a real easy lay. The three of us are junkies for one another's humor, and energy, and spirit.

DAY I don't laugh a lot in the process leading up to shooting, when we're writing or blocking out a scene. But when it all comes together, I have these moments where I step outside myself and see...

SUDEIKIS You leave Charlie and get into Dale. You just become dumb.

DAY I'm thinking about the scenario we're in and I just get tickled. Bateman throws in something under his breath... I can usually hold it long enough that I know they'll be able to cut it together. Then... it's gonna go.

BATEMAN You just get a few more seconds out of it.

DAY [*Laughs*] I hold it long enough so that everyone is still satisfied.

Then it's all over the place.

SUDEIKIS It's on the ceiling. It's on the walls.

BATEMAN And then you have to reload.

After Chris Pine's spoiled entrepreneur's son ends up in your clutches, the threesome becomes a foursome for much of the movie. Does that change the interplay?

BATEMAN When these eccentric characters come around, the three of us become the straight men, and we have to react against it.

SUDEIKIS Chris came to the story from a dramatic place, not going for the joke. So when he's upset about his father betraying him, he's playing that as real as you would in whatever—a Nicholas Sparks film. We're falling for him as a friend.

He becomes the Zeppo?

SUDEIKIS Yeah, that's when we switch from the Three Stooges to the Marx Brothers.

BATEMAN He wasn't looking for laughs, or for this to be his comedy film, like, "I'm going to show Hollywood I can do comedy."

With Jennifer Aniston in *Horrible Bosses 2*

> **"EVERY DAY [CHRISTOPH WALTZ] COMES TO THE SET WITH A RUBBER CHICKEN. IT'S LIKE, 'BUDDY, IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK IN THAT SCENE!'"**
>
> > CH@RL!E DAY

That's Christoph Waltz.

BATEMAN Yeah, that Waltz guy. What's his name? Christoph?

DAY [*Groans*] Every day he comes to the set with a different rubber chicken. It's like, "Buddy, it's not going to work in that scene!"

BATEMAN Always with a whoopee cushion. I mean, come on.

SUDEIKIS Wocka wocka.

Is there any joke that got cut that you wish had made it in?

SUDEIKIS We talked about at one point being with Motherf---er Jones and he says, "You crackers got to go, I've got some other crackers coming in." And then the three *Hangover* guys come and sit in the booth.

Did you shoot that?

DAY No, we couldn't afford their quotes.

SUDEIKIS I told Zach [Galifianakis] about it. He thought it was hilarious. I think I told Ed Helms about it, too. But it would take you out of [the movie].

Your characters pass the time by playing F---, Marry, Kill. If you were to play with yourselves [*cough*], who would you choose?

DAY I'd say, "Please, just kill me. Just kill me now."

SUDEIKIS I'd say, "Fuuuu-- me," but wait—that's just a saying.

BATEMAN I already f---ed myself, multiple times, on job choices. And you two kill me.

SUDEIKIS We're all married to our work.

So how would that game shake out if given the choice of your costars Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, and Chris Pine?

DAY I wouldn't f--- any of them, because they're all men. No offense. I wouldn't marry any of them, because I'm married. And I wouldn't kill any of them, because that's against the law.

BATEMAN Well, [*pause*] I would f--- Jamie Foxx. ■

JOHN P. JOHNSON

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THE ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

2014 Holiday Gift Guide

56

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

For all the entertainment fiends on your shopping list, we found the coolest goods to fuel their pop culture addiction. Go on, give a little. (And if you find something for yourself, we won't tell.)

By **STEPHANIE SCHOMER**
Photographs by **PHILIP FRIEDMAN**

Master & Dynamic's **MH40 headphones** look fantastic and sound even better; $399, masterdynamic.com

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE

- **Brooklyn-distilled booze to sip while devouring Lena Dunham's memoir.** *P. 45*
- **Taylor Swift sneakers and the best speakers on the market.** *P. 48*
- **The most awesome Christmas sweater we've ever seen. (Hint: It's got *Gremlins*.)** *P. 46*
- **The ultimate on-the-go gaming tablet.** *P. 50*
- ***HOW TO...*** *Set up a home theater; rid your life of wires; organize your music library*

Introducing

THE EW *Tech* MUST LIST

P. 51

PLUS

A Very *Parks & Rec* Christmas

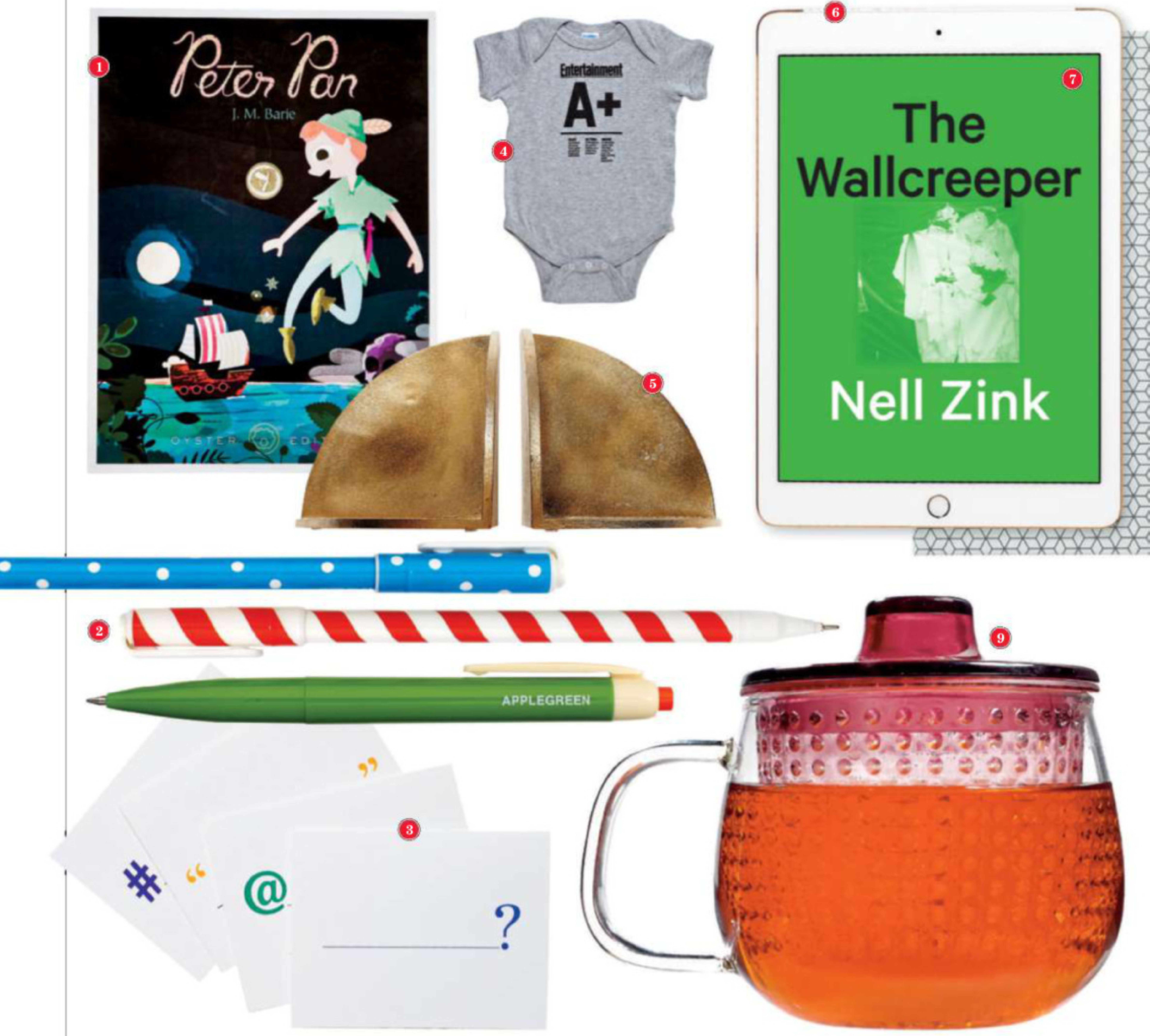
PROPS: CHANEL KENNEBREW

Icons by **KEITH DAVIS YOUNG**

THE EW
Holiday Gift Guide

FOR The Book Club President

To the friend who keeps your mind sharp all year, give the gift of words, correspondence, and—most important—really good alcohol

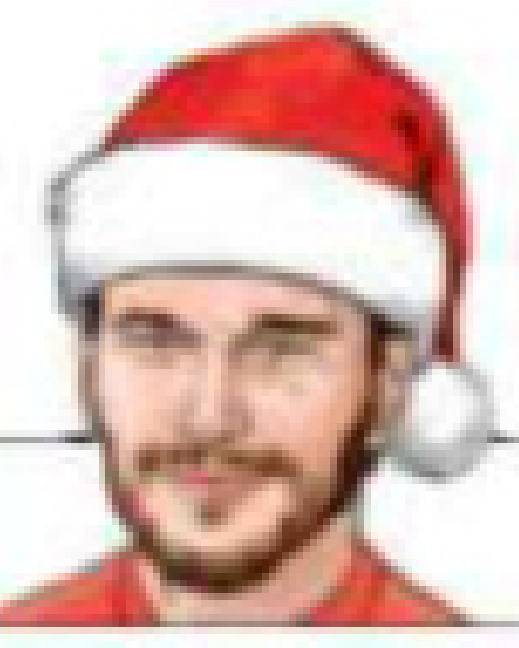


1. Keep even the most voracious readers rolling in pages with an e-book subscription to **Oyster** ($10 per month for unlimited access to thousands of titles), paired with a limited-edition poster of a classic ($25); oysterbooks.com **2.** If your reader is also a writer, they'll appreciate these cheery **patterned pens**; $5 each, poketo.com **3.** Revive the lost art of the written note with **punctuation notecards**; $16 for six, meeschmosh.com **4.** This precious (if we do say so ourselves) **EW one-piece** gives a winning review to the book lover's latest addition; $10, shop.ew.com **5.** For the sophisticated bookavore, sophisticated **brass bookends**; $115 each, thefutureperfect.com **6.** Flip pages faster than ever with the **iPad Air 2**, Apple's most powerful tablet yet; from $500 **7.** For those who already devoured the best-seller list, a subscription to **Emily Books** will deliver one carefully selected under-the-radar gem to their e-reader every month; $14 per month, emilybooks.com **8.** Outfit their iPad with a custom-designed **DodoCase**; from $75, dodocase.com

SECRET SANTA

PARKS & REC EDITION

We picked the names out of a hat, and the cast of the NBC comedy picked the gifts

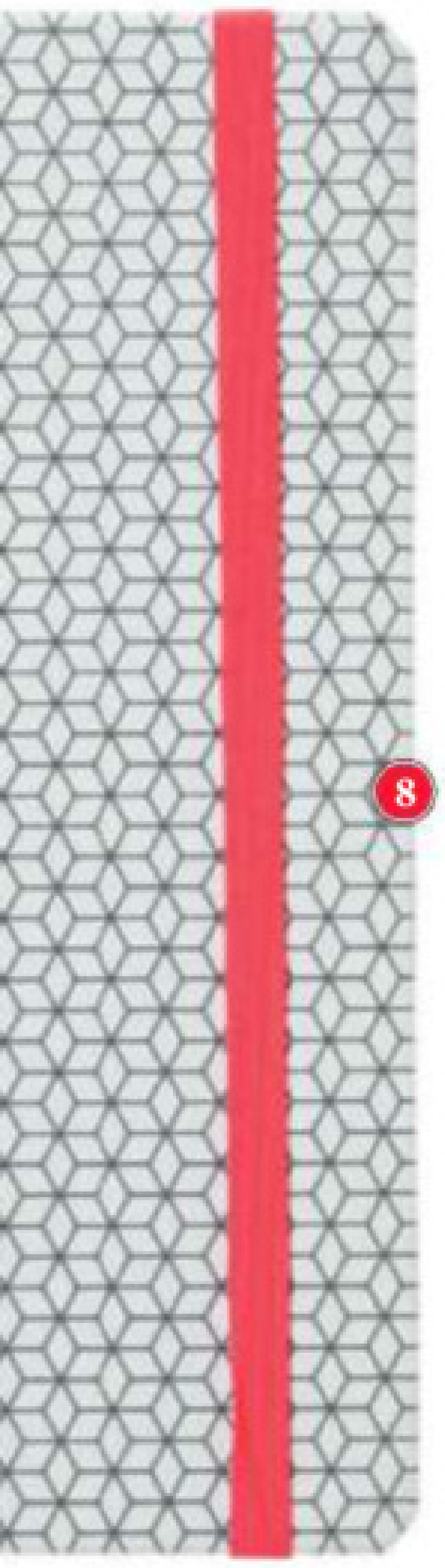


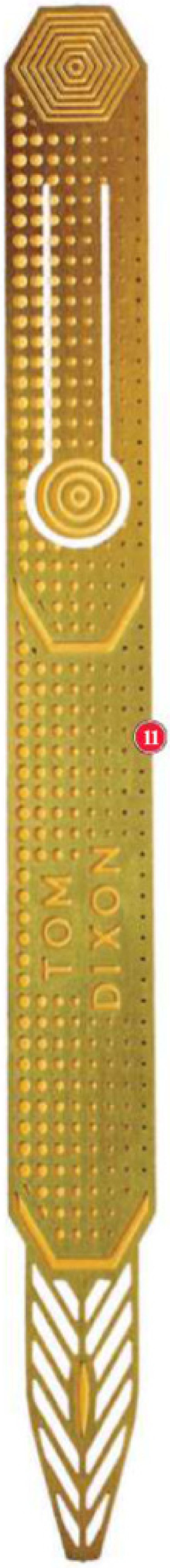
From: Chris Pratt → *To: Nick Offerman*

"Nick appreciates handmade things. I would get Nick a piece of art, hopefully something I handmade out of some kind of dead animal part—a bone-handled knife or squirrel-skin tobacco pouch."

From: Retta → *To: Jim O'Heir*

"If I had any patience, I'd put together footage of all the conference-room scenes. Every time we [film them], Jim has a goofy smile and says, 'These are my favorite scenes. I love when we're all together.' It's annoying but sweet."




TOM DIXON
11

I ♥
FRENCH TEA
MARIAGE FRÈRES
Paris
10

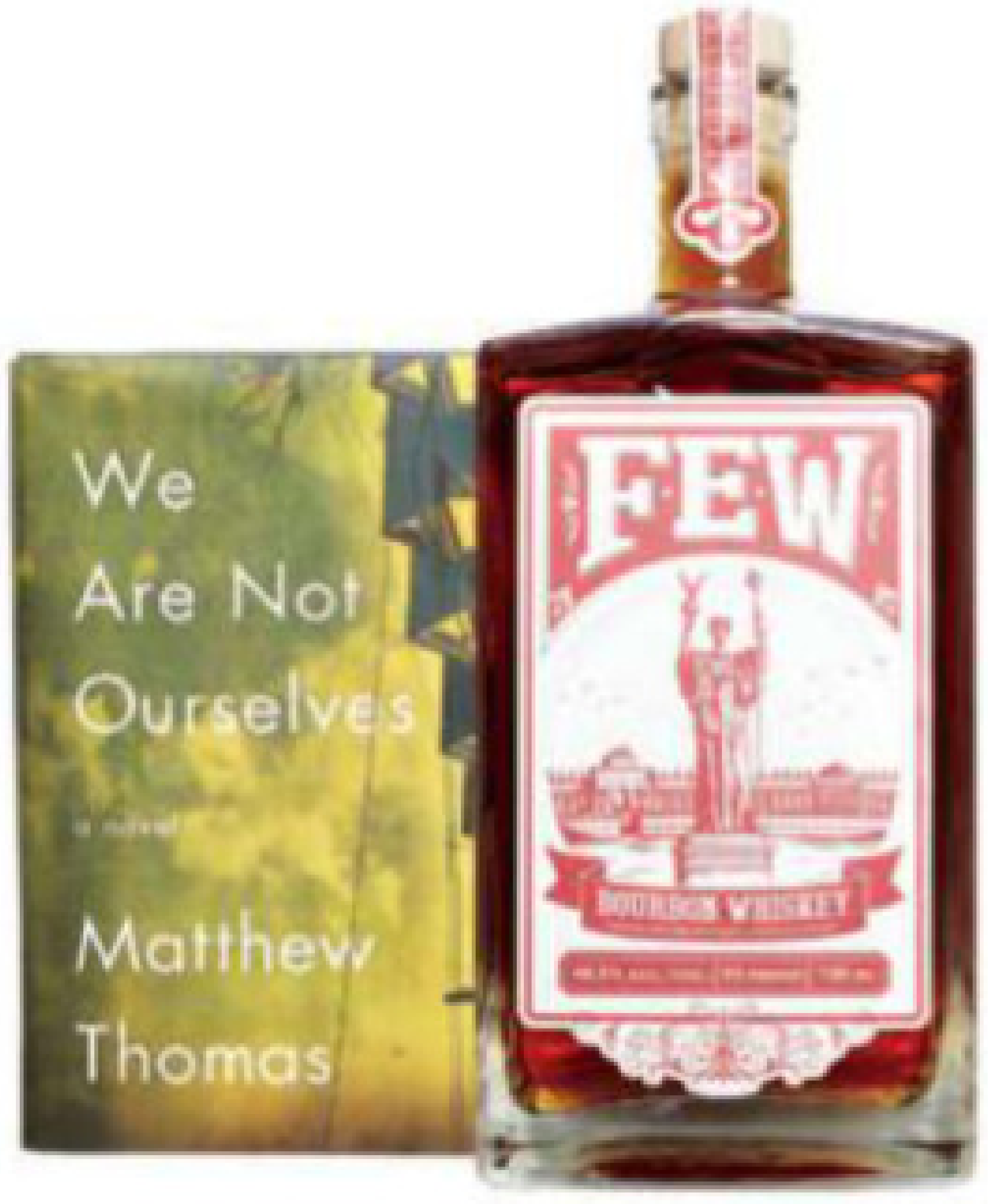
9. & 10. Give them the coziest reading companion of all: the **Unimug tea infuser** ($17, momastore.org) with Mariage Frères **French tea** ($32, mariagefreres.com)

11. Make sure they never lose their place with Tom Dixon's **brass pen bookmarker**; $18, poketo.com

PERFECT PAIRINGS

BOOKS + BOOZE

A book is a great gift. What makes it even better? A beautiful bottle of alcohol. Check out our favorite duos of lit and liquor. —KAT WARD


We Are Not Ourselves
a novel
Matthew Thomas
FEW
BOURBON WHISKEY

WE ARE NOT OURSELVES *($28)*

+

FEW WHISKEY *($60)*

Protagonist Eileen Tumulty enjoys her whiskey in Matthew Thomas' novel about the evolution of a family and how they cope with illness.

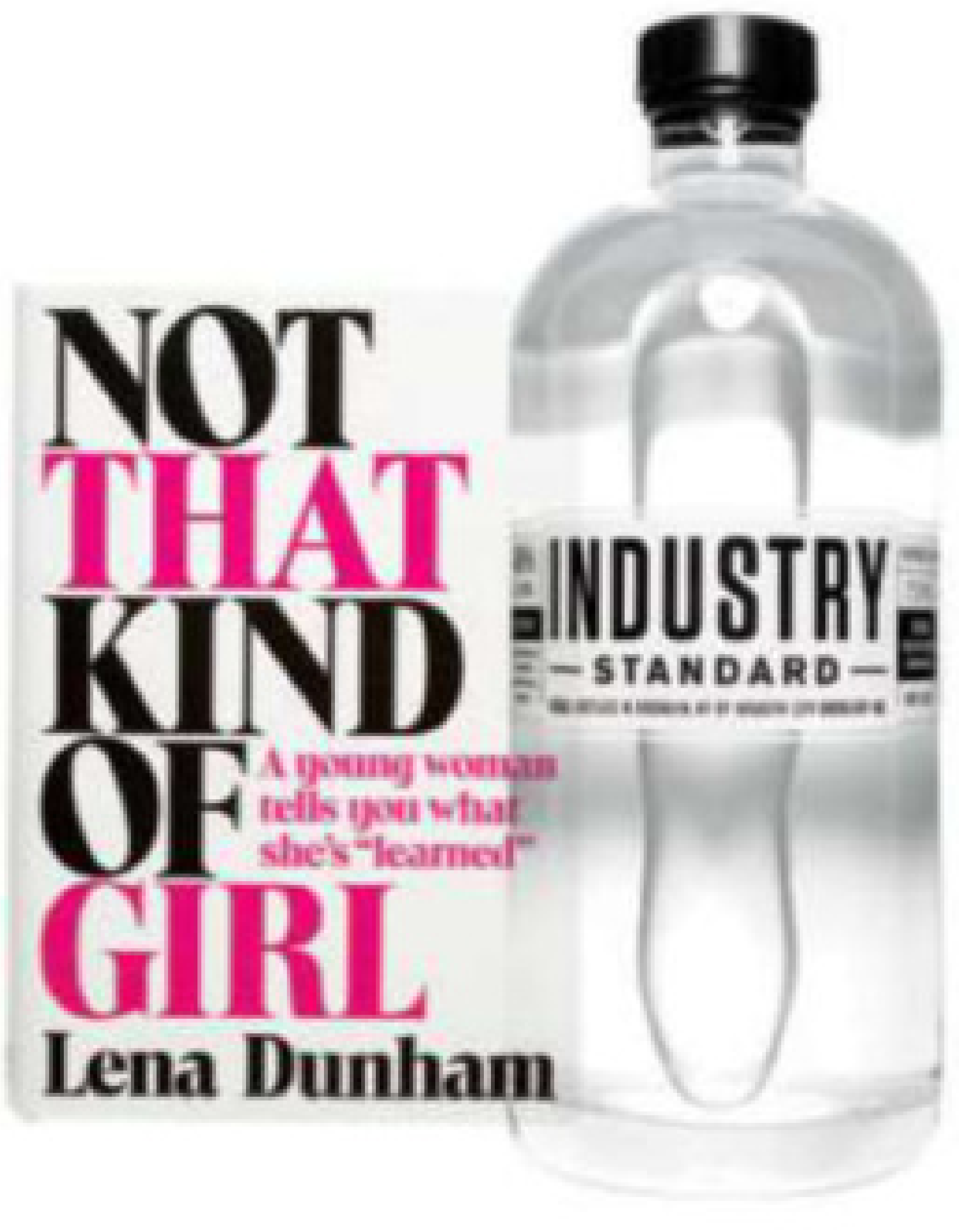
STATION ELEVEN
A NOVEL
EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL
Lost Spirits
RUM
68%

STATION ELEVEN *($25)*

+

LOST SPIRITS DISTILLERY RUM *($55)*

"Lost spirits" is an accurate description of the characters in Emily St. John Mandel's postapocalyptic novel, after a global pandemic wipes out most of the population.


NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL
A young woman tells you what she's "learned"
Lena Dunham
INDUSTRY
STANDARD

NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL *($28)*

+

INDUSTRY STANDARD VODKA *($44)*

Girls creator Lena Dunham distills her life experiences into a collection of raw and funny essays, an excellent match with this vodka from the show's home borough.

Euphoria
LILY KING
KOVAL
DRY GIN

EUPHORIA *($25)*

+

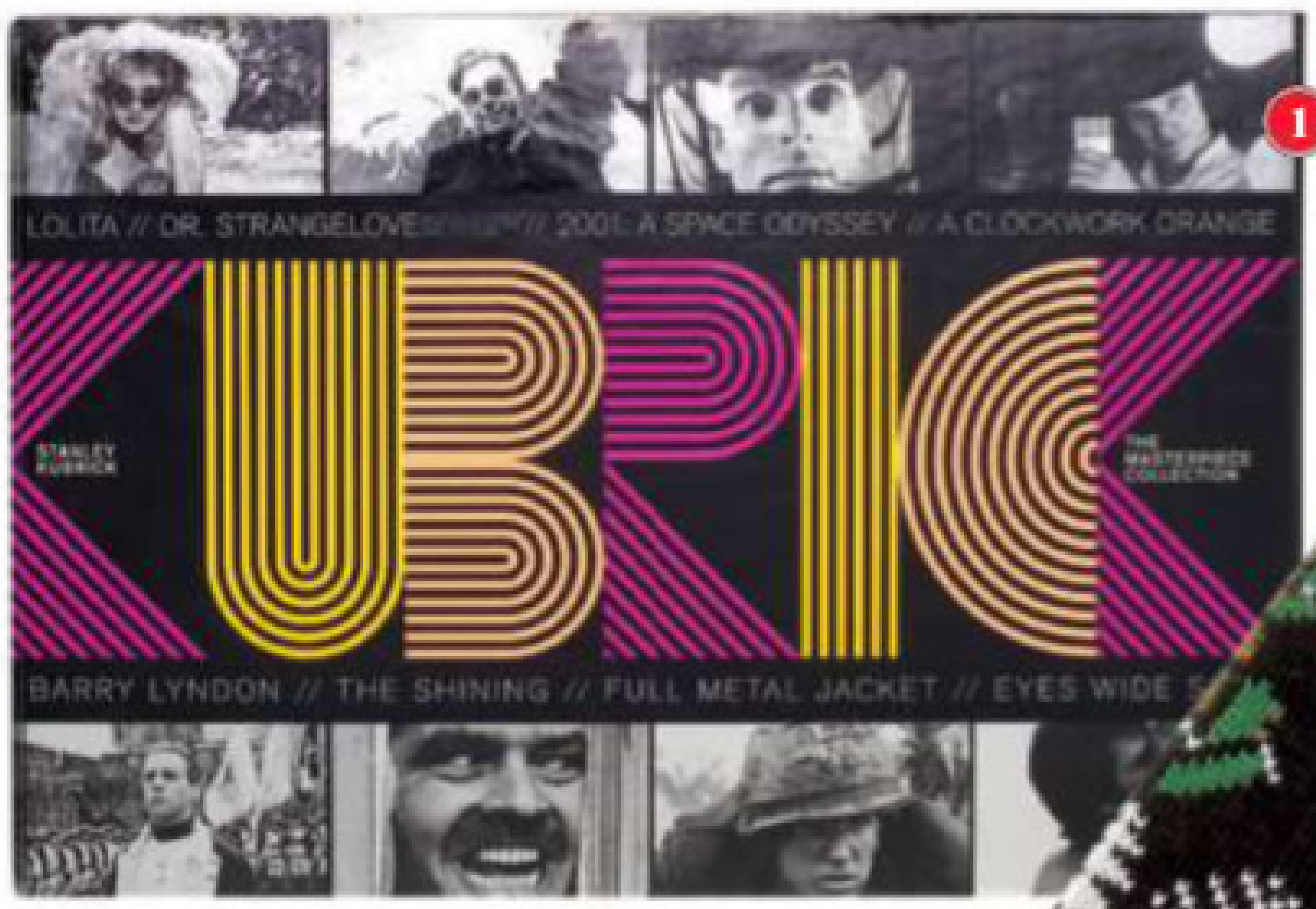
KOVAL GIN *($35)*

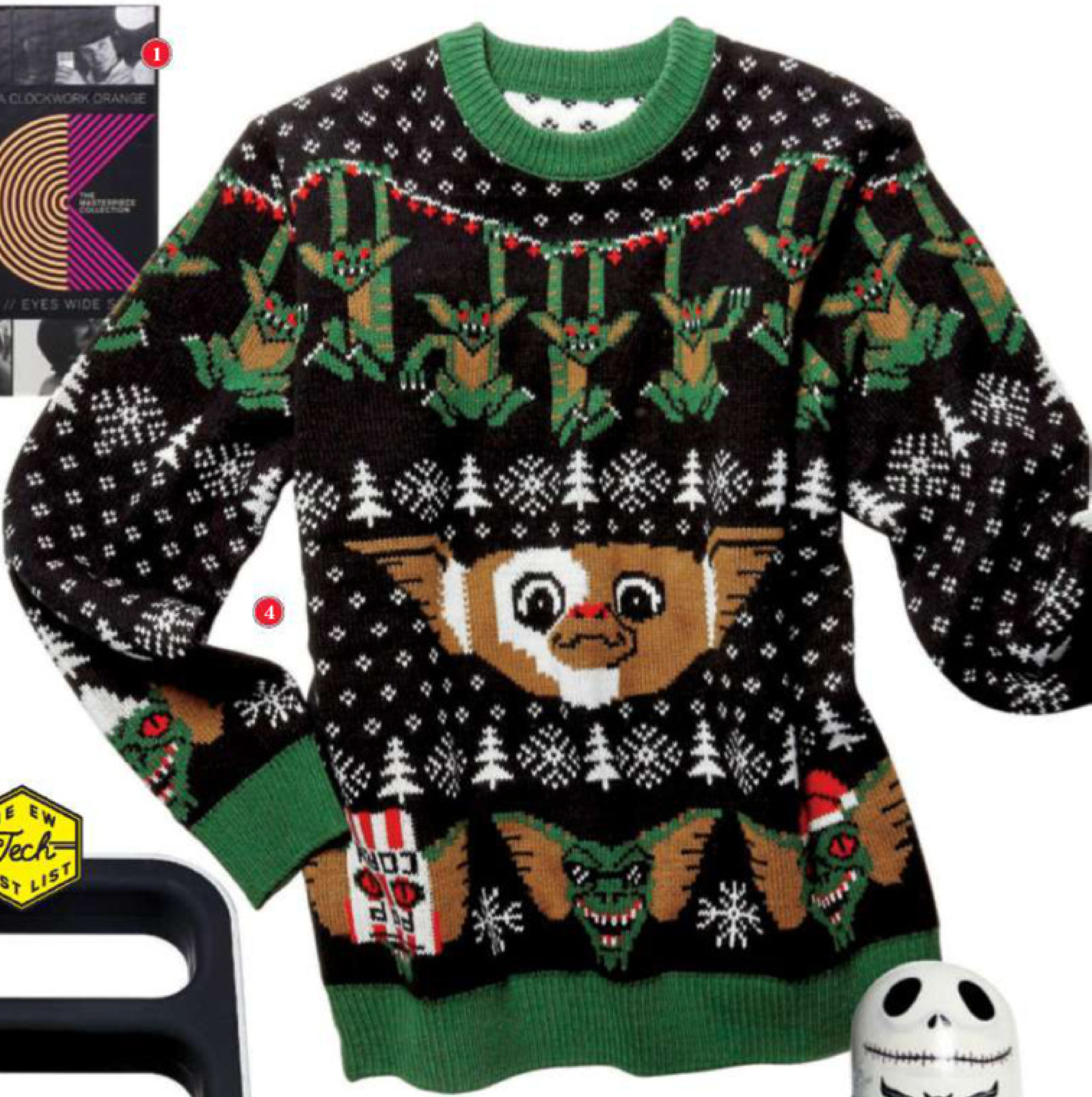
Lily King's novel—in which a narrator reflects on his lost love, a Margaret Mead-like anthropologist, and her tumultuous life in sultry climes—calls for a cool gin cocktail.

Secret Santa illustrations by **ADAM C. MOORE**

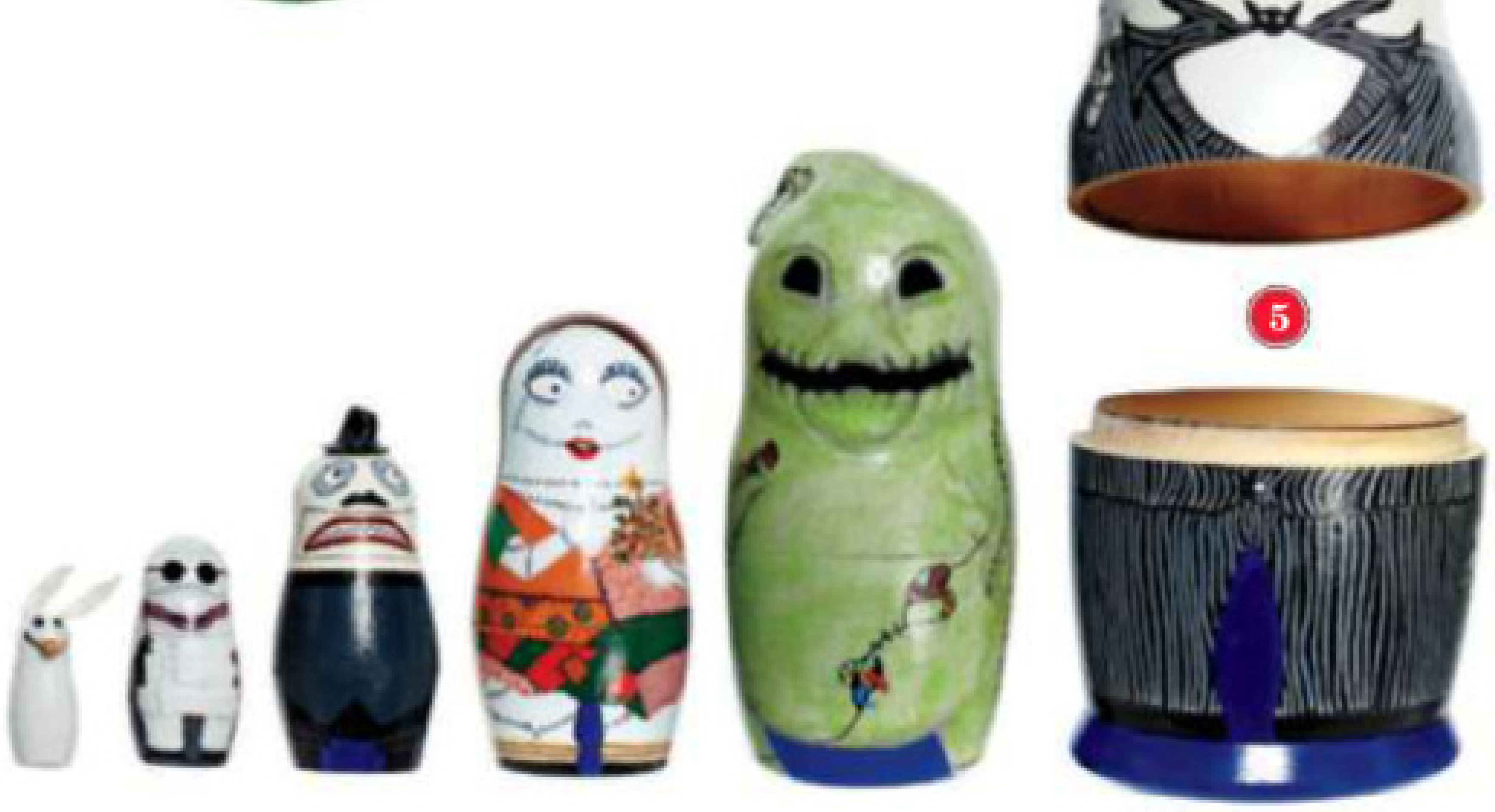
FOR The Movie Night Host

For the brains behind every movie marathon you've ever enjoyed (or endured), nine sure-to-please gifts


1
LOLITA // DR. STRANGELOVE // 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY // A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
KUBRICK
BARRY LYNDON // THE SHINING // FULL METAL JACKET // EYES WIDE S



THE
Wonderful
WIZARD
OF
2



1. ***Stanley Kubrick: The Masterpiece Collection*** features eight of the director's films on Blu-ray plus an archival photo book; $200
2. As part of Rockport's Classics Reimagined series, ***The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*** goes mod with graphic illustrations by Olimpia Zagnoli; $25
3. The **Kickstand WR1 HD portable projector** by Bēm Wireless can stream movies and fill a 100-inch screen (even in 3-D!), and it's just 7.5 inches wide; $700, bemwireless.com
4. ***Gremlins*** gets the holiday-sweater treatment; $85, mondotees.com
5. ***The Nightmare Before Christmas* nesting dolls** by Bobo Babushka are as weird and wonderful as the flick they're based on; $175, etsy.com/shop/bobobabushka
6. At 78 inches, Samsung's **HU9000 Curved UHD smart TV**

Parks & Rec Plays Secret Santa

From: *Amy Poehler* → To: *Chris Pratt*

"Invisible nunchucks. Explains itself."

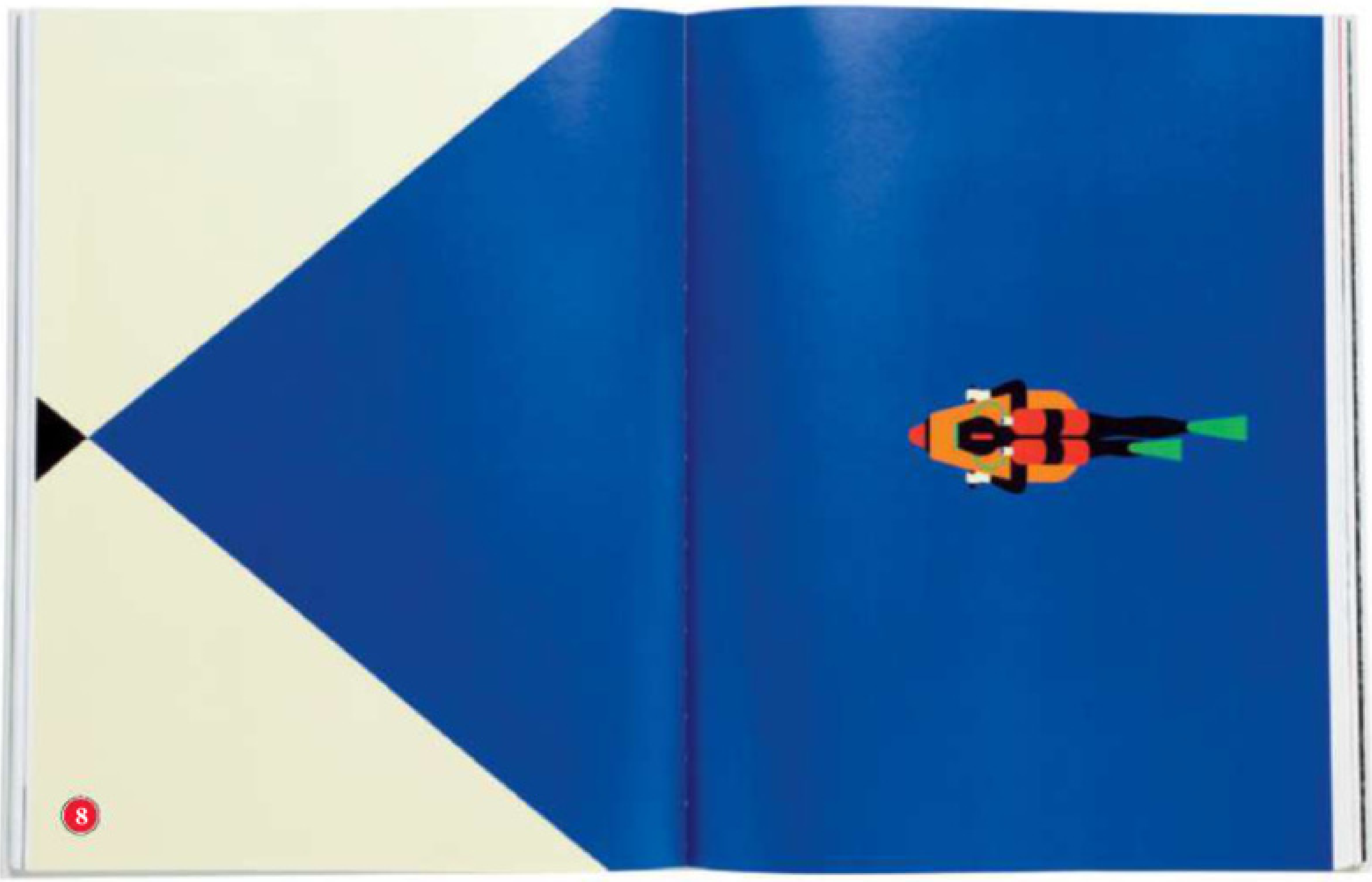
From: *Aziz Ansari* → To: *Retta*

"I'd say a gift certificate for a spa. Retta works hard and needs to treat herself. I may also grab a gift certificate for myself as well. In fact, I'm going to a spa right now. Bye!"

Splurge!
6
THE EW Tech MUST LIST

PIPCORN
SEA SALT
7

1080S-30
00
2H02
HERO4
9
THE EW Tech MUST LIST



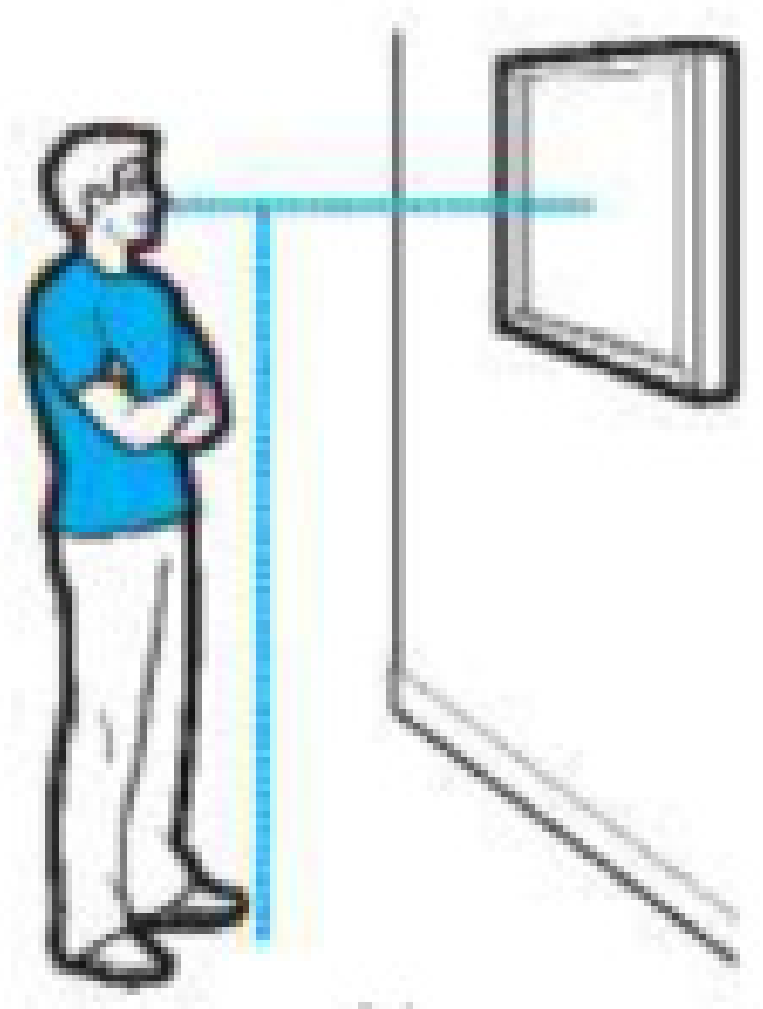
FROZEN: DISNEY

will revolutionize at-home viewing with an ultraclear, distortion-free, 4K picture; $8,000 7. Mouth serves up the ultimate movie-night snacks with its **Pop Pop Popcorn Taster** and **Indie Candy Bars** gift sets, each offering an array of droolworthy flavors; from $45, mouth.com 8. The ***Criterion Designs*** book boasts commissioned movie posters, art, and sketches from such films as *Foreign Correspondent*, *City Lights*, and *Rushmore*; $100 9. For the audacious filmmaker, GoPro's tiny **Hero4 Black camera** captures 4K video in virtually any setting; $500

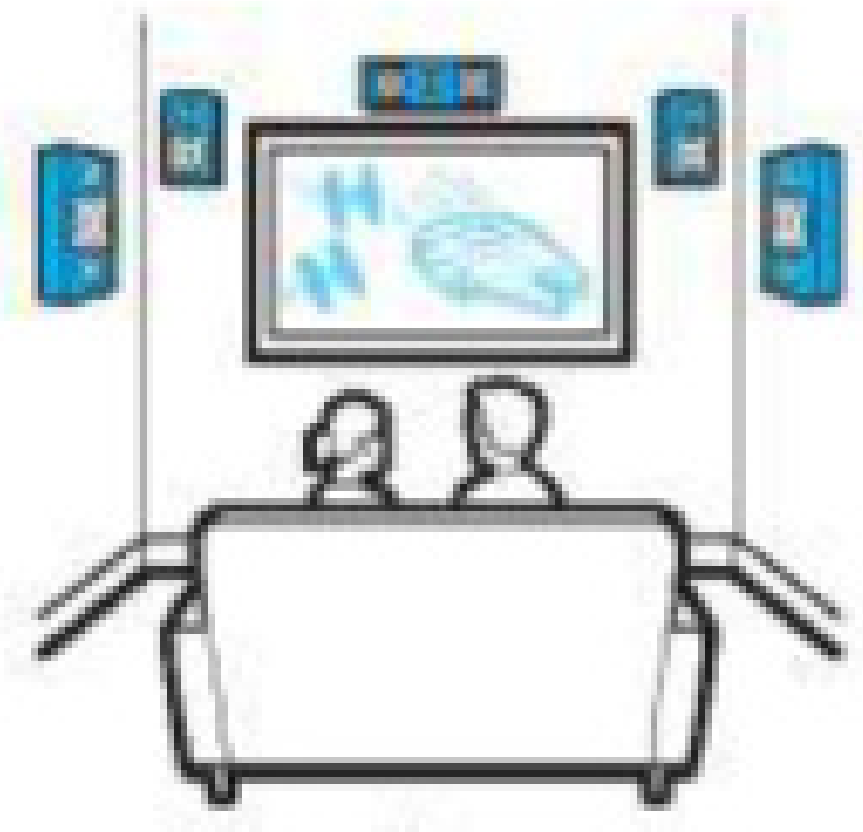
HOW TO

SET UP A HOME THEATER

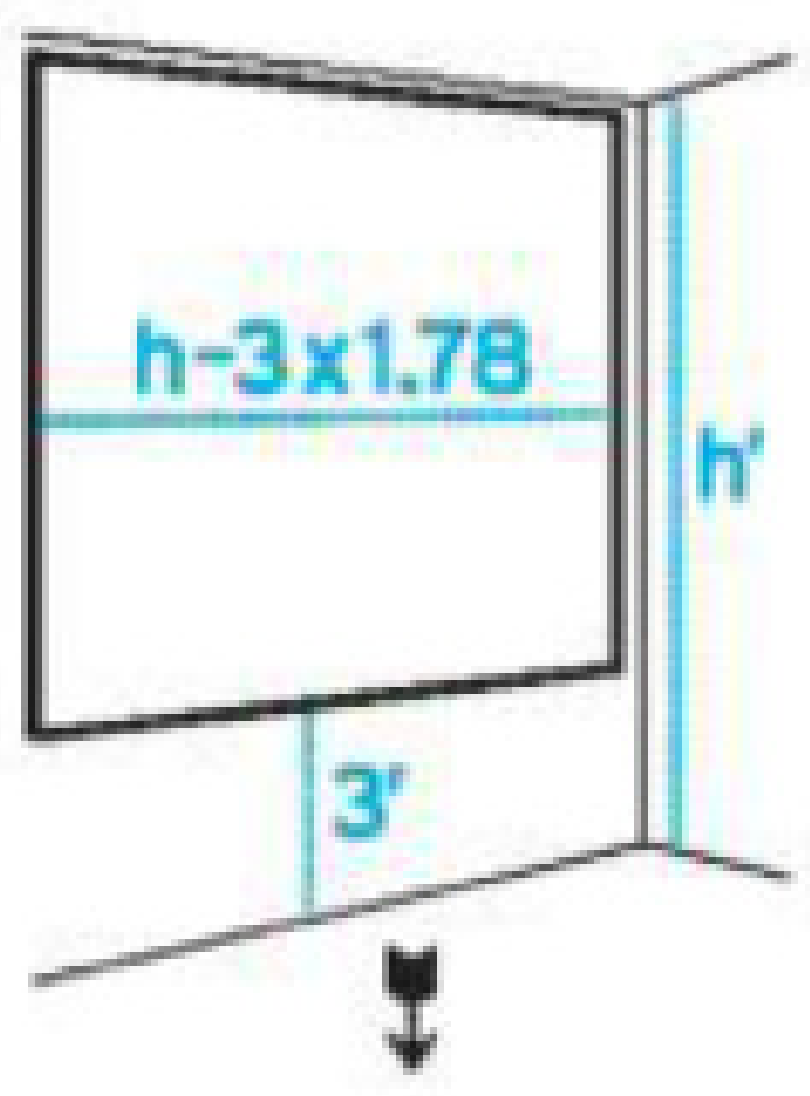
How do you turn your living room into a movie-viewing oasis? Jason Cameron, host of Man Caves *and* Sledgehammer *on DIY Network, tells us.*



WHERE DO I HANG MY TV?
A 42-inch flat screen should hang six to eight feet from where you lounge. To determine the height, "measure from the floor to the tip of your nose," Cameron says. Use that length as the midpoint mounting height.



WHERE DO MY SPEAKERS GO?
To the sides of or directly behind where you watch. "Place them high so they don't fire directly at your ears," Cameron says. "They're meant to envelop you and make you feel like you're in the action."



HOW DO I SET UP A PROJECTOR?
The screen is priority. To find the ideal height, subtract three feet from your ceiling. Width is based on aspect ratio (16:9 for HD viewing): "Multiply maximum screen height by 1.78 to find your best screen width."

How-to illustrations by **BROWNBIRD DESIGN**

THE EW
Holiday
Gift
Guide

FOR The Resident Party DJ

➸ *We've curated the best gifts for the sound-obsessed—whether they're highbrow hipsters or pop-princess-loving teens*

1
OP-1
5
Nothing has changed.
Splurge!
7
3
powerbeats
SONOS
THE EW Tech MUST LIST
6
2
re
THE EW Tech MUST LIST
DANNY CLINCH
8
4
9

1. The **OP-1 portable synthesizer** has a drum machine, sampler, and recorder; $849, momastore.org
2. The HTC **RE camera** peeks over the crowd at concerts—and the lack of a viewfinder keeps eyes on the stage, not a screen; $200
3. For the active audiophile, Beats' **PowerBeats2 wireless in-ear headphones**; $200
4. Gift the perfect dinner party with **Turntable Kitchen**, which delivers a monthly box of recipes, dry ingredients, and a record; $25 per month, turntablekitchen.com
5. The ***David Bowie: Nothing Has Changed* three-CD set** features 50 years of music; $22
6. The Sonos **Play:1 speaker** is the first step in building a wireless home sound system; $199
7. McIntosh's **MHP1000 headphones** take the brand's signature sound on the go;

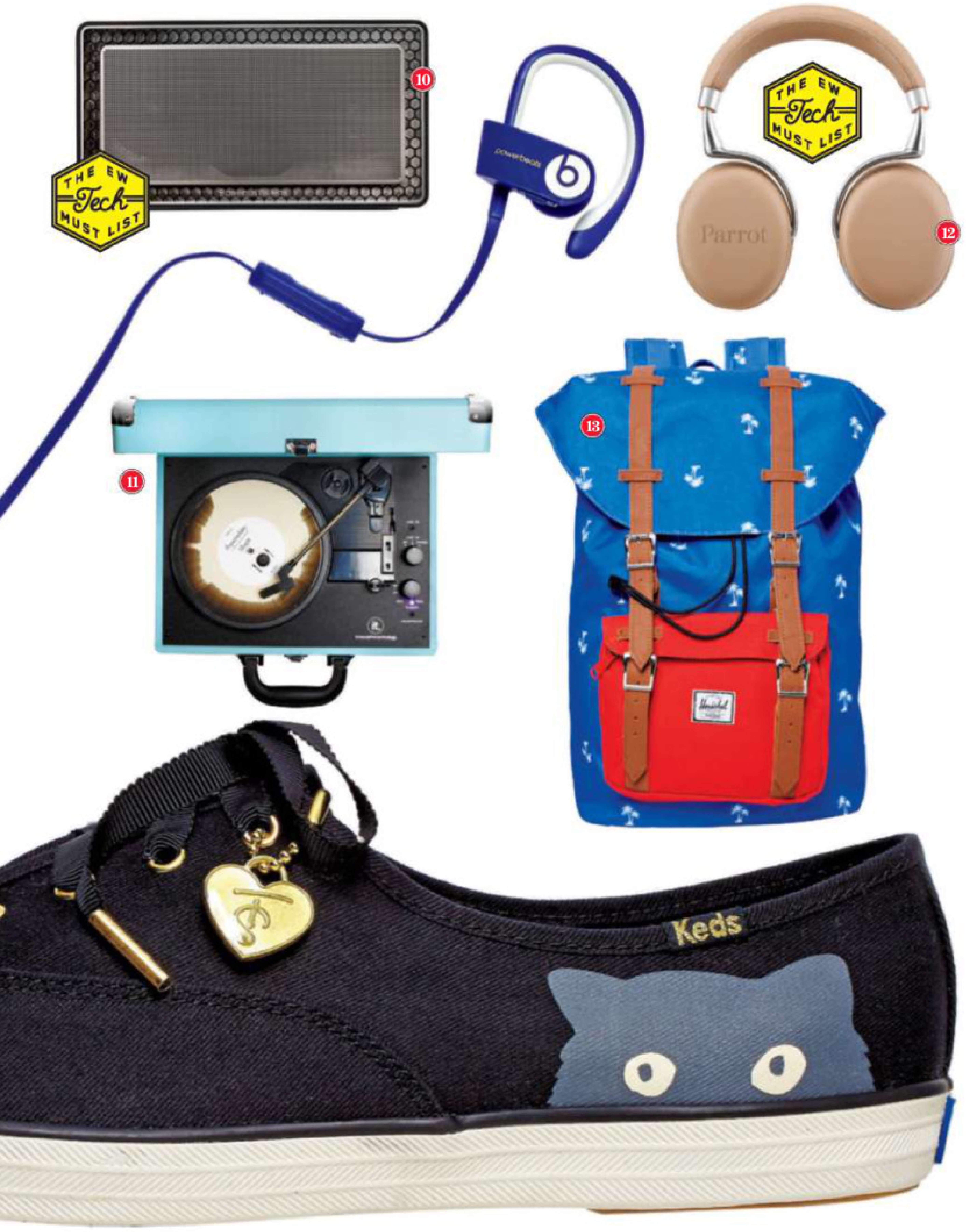
Parks & Rec Plays Secret Santa

From: **Aubrey Plaza** → To: **Adam Scott**

"I would get Adam an autographed poster of Harrison Ford and a giant jar of walnut butter. He just *loves* walnut butter!"

From: **Jim O'Heir** → To: **Aziz Ansari**

"I would arrange a private dinner with Jay Z, Beyoncé, and Chris Rock. The food would be prepared by chef Jean-Georges, with a performance by Kanye West after dinner. The food would be served by the cast of *Parks & Rec*."



$2,000, mcintoshlabs.com
8. ***Danny Clinch: Still Moving*** celebrates the music photographer's work; $50
9. Taylor Swift fans will love her **Sneaky Cat kicks** for Keds; $55
10. The **T7 speaker** by Bowers & Wilkins boasts hi-fi sound; $350
11. Vinyl loyalists will dig Innovative Technology's **portable turntable**; $80, hsn.com
12. Parrot's **Zik 2.0 headphones** have a smart touch panel on the ear—change tracks and volume with a simple tap or swipe; $400
13. Carry albums and other gear in style with Herschel's **Little America backpack**; $100, turntablelab.com

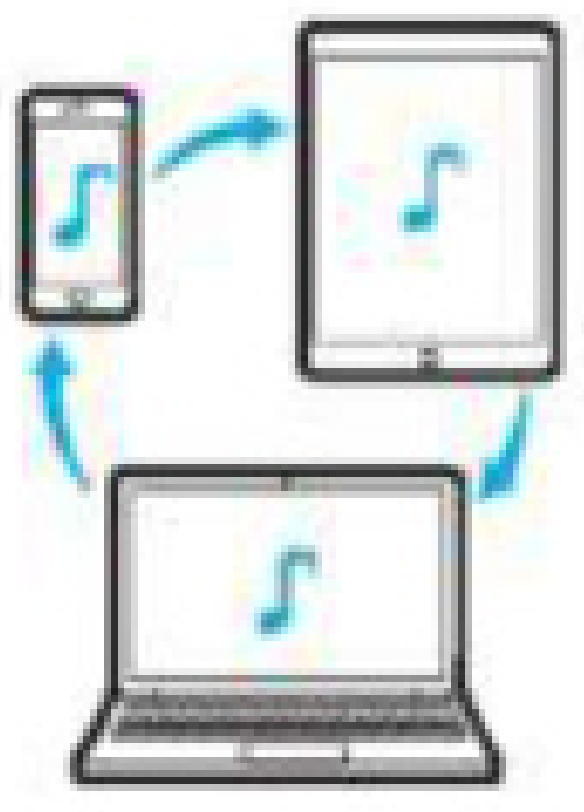
HOW TO

CLEAN UP TO GET DOWN

Your digital jukebox holds decades' worth of MP3s. (Yeah, we see those old Sugar Ray tracks in there.) Here's how to trim an overcrowded iTunes collection.

NAME THAT TUNE
Invest in a quality app like Leawo Tunes Cleaner ($40, leawo.org) to label unnamed tracks, fetch missing art, and delete duplicate songs.

PURGE
As of last year, 20 percent of Spotify's available songs had never been streamed. Do a quick check in your own music library: Zero plays? Ax it.



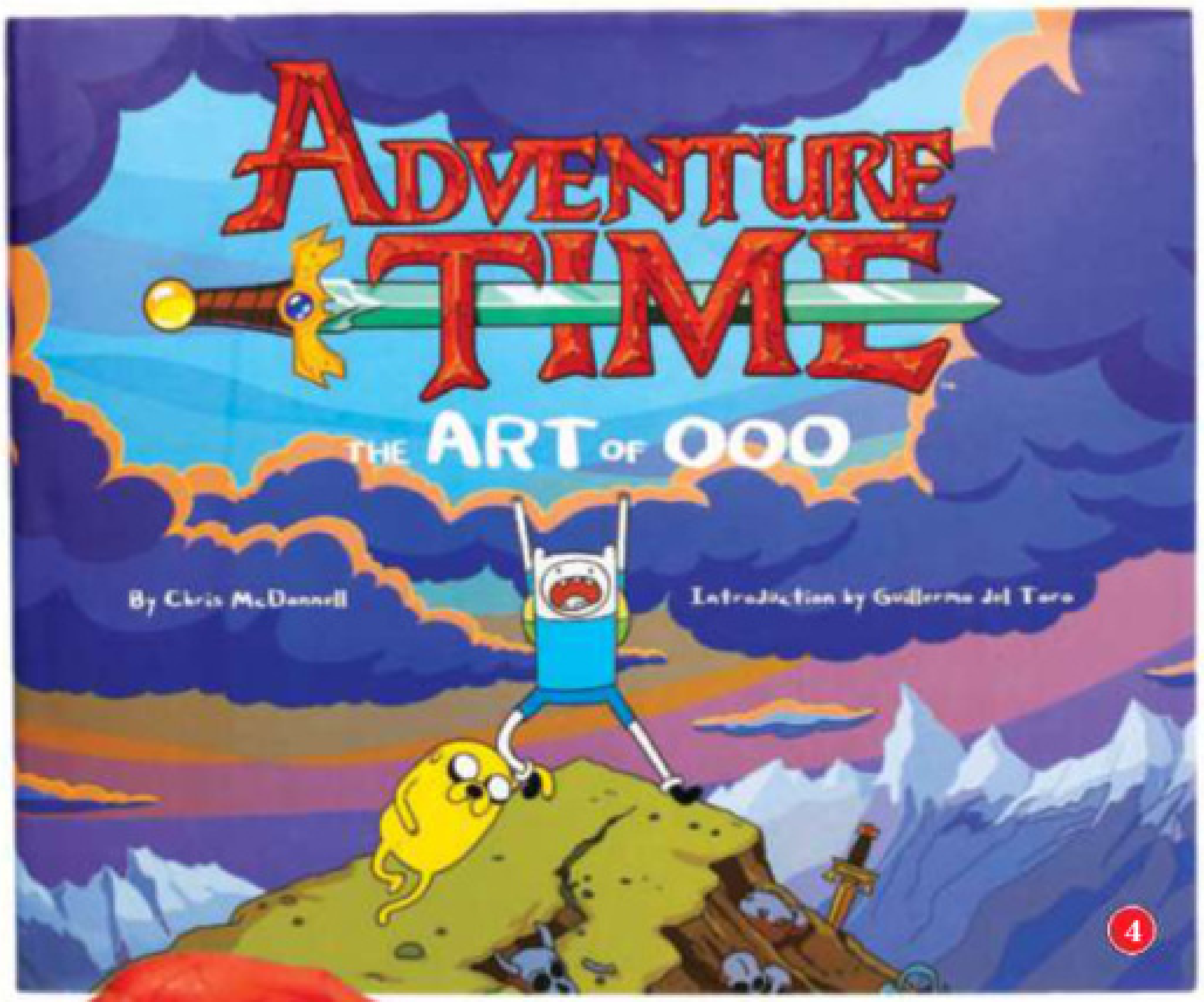
SYNC
Next, sync your overhauled, spick-and-span collection across mobile phones and tablets for full uniformity.

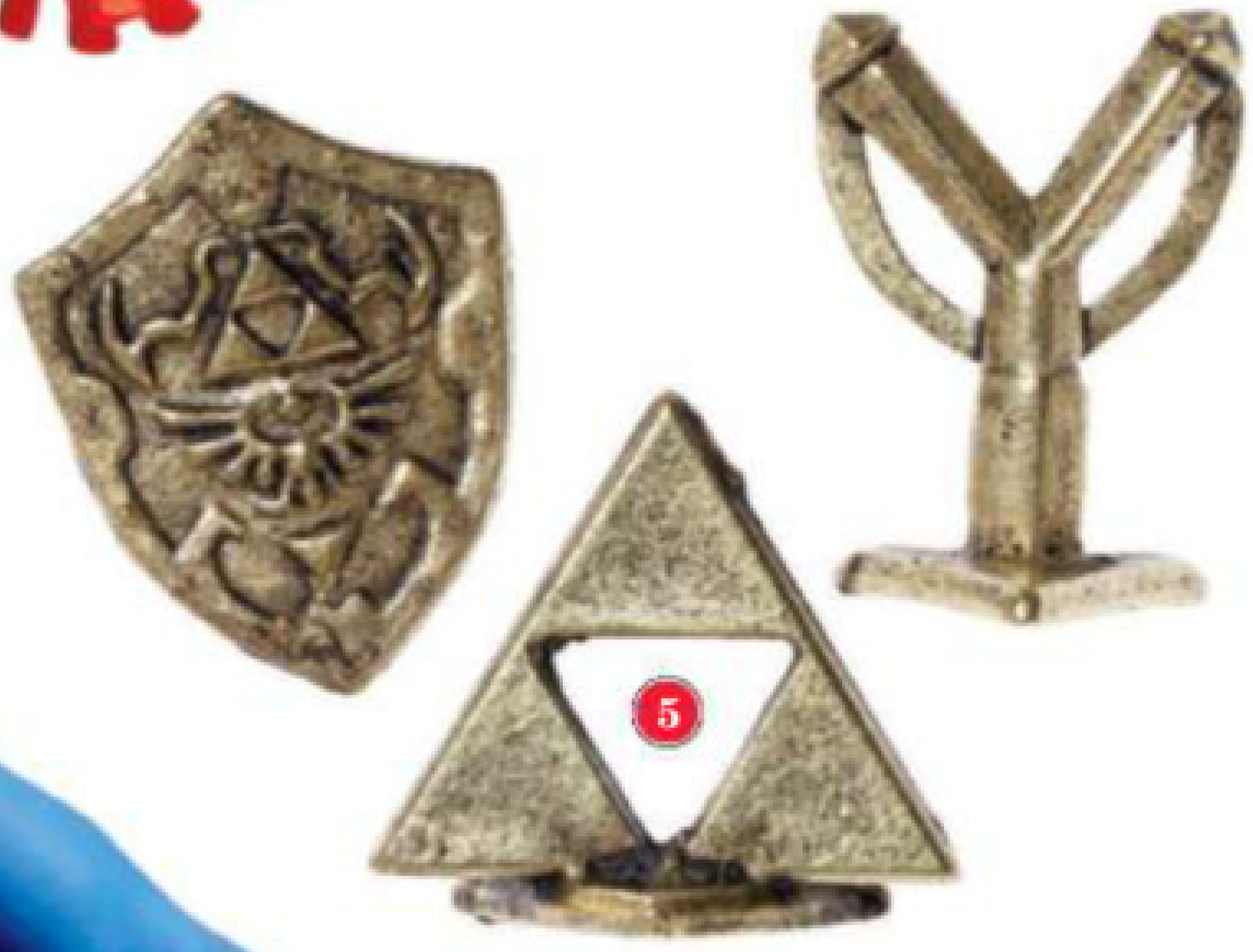
STREAM
Services such as Google Play let you play the files in your library as well as millions of on-demand songs for an all-in-one listening experience.

FOR The Geek Squad Captain

➼ *Gadgets, gear, and swag guaranteed to make even the coolest gaming enthusiast geek out*

1
THE EW Tech MUST LIST





1. The **Nvidia Shield** is a gamer's dream: The Android-powered tablet (from $299) and wireless controller ($60) come with built-in games and can also stream favorites from a PC
2. & 3. These tiny figurines connect to gaming consoles to grant access to different onscreen characters, features, and adventures. **Yoshi** ($13, nintendo.com) and **Spider-Man** ($35 for two, infinity.disney.com) are part of the Nintendo Amiibo and Disney Infinity worlds, respectively, and can be collected along with a wide range of creatures and personalities
4. The ***Adventure Time: The Art of Ooo*** book gives fanatics of the TV series—and there are many—an inside look at its creation; $35
5. Lo-fi gaming gets some love with a collector's-edition **Legend of Zelda Monopoly**, featuring ultra-cool tokens; $40, usaopoly.com
6. The **Executive Building Brick set** is the perfect workplace distraction for the grown-up gamer; $20, thinkgeek.com

Parks & Rec Plays Secret Santa

From: Adam Scott → *To: Amy Poehler*

"I have never seen a person accidentally break their iPhone with as much strict, rigid regularity as Ms. Amy Poehler. So I'm getting Amy a personal 'phone catcher.' It is a small, unassuming man named Marco."

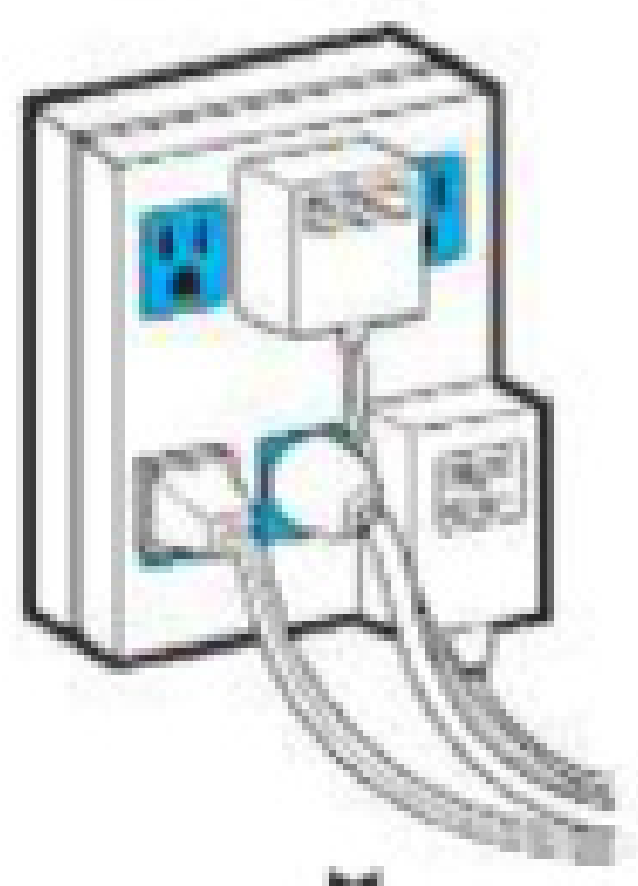
From: Nick Offerman → *To: Aubrey Plaza*

"I would give Aubrey a cauldron hewn of lignum vitae and a newborn black goat to foment her conjuration of Shub-Niggurath, the black goat of the forest with 1,000 young."

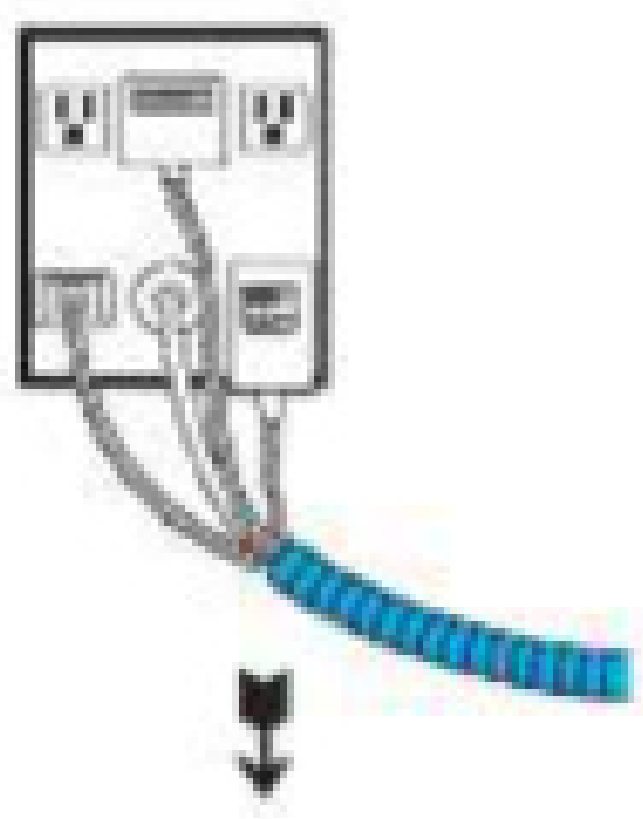
HOW TO

CONTROL YOUR CORDS

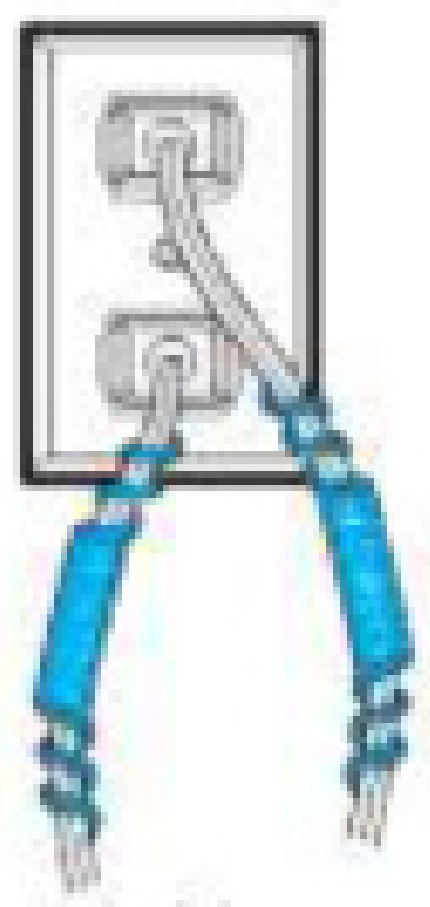
That tangle of cords behind your entertainment center? Time to tame it. Here's how.



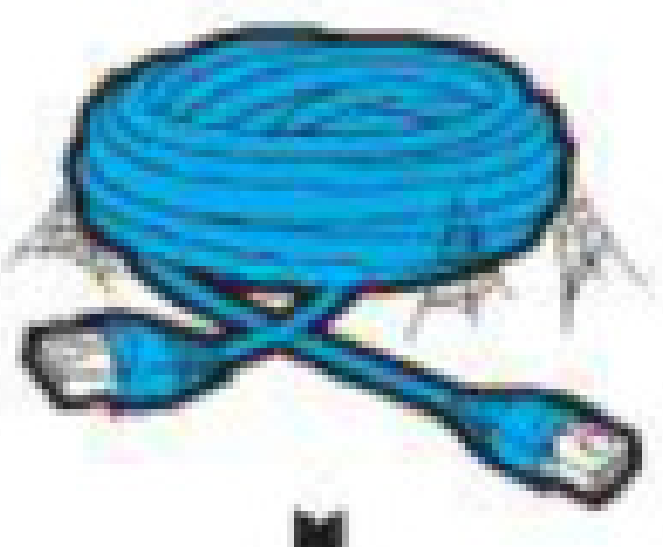
CONSOLIDATE
Ditch the power strip. A multi-adapter outlet brings plugs wall-side to neatly free floor space.



CAPTURE
Keep your floor from looking like an Indiana Jones snake pit. Hog-tie twisting cables individually, or bundle 'em with discreet cord zippers.



COORDINATE
Wii U, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, speakers, a TV—that's a jumbled mess. Apply method to the madness with color-coded ID tags.



CUT
Products like the Nvidia Shield (see left) let you stream PC games to a tablet and make moves via a wireless controller. It's what we've known since the Game Boy days: A wireless gamer is a happy gamer.

THE EW Tech MUST LIST

THE 20 MOST DROOL-INDUCING, LIFE-CHANGING, INDUSTRY-ALTERING ENTERTAINMENT GADGETS

TO WATCH

1. **Sony 4K Ultra Short Throw Projector** Sit it just seven inches from your wall, and this device will project a 147-inch picture with four times the clarity of HD. **$50,000**
2. **Samsung 78-Inch HU9000 UHD TV** A curved screen and an ultra-hi-def system come together to offer the clearest, most immersive viewing experience around. **$8,000**
3. **Bēm Wireless WR1 HD Portable Projector** Toss this portable projector in your briefcase, then kick it open for impromptu movie nights. **$700**
4. **Vizio P-Series 4K 50-Inch TV** With lightning-quick Wi-Fi capability and an super-clear LED screen, this set's our pick for the best value out there. **$1,000**

TO CREATE

1. **Oculus Rift** Though it's not available to civilians just yet, the 3-D virtual-reality headset will soon change the way we consume content. **$350 (for developers)**
2. **GoPro Hero4 Black Camera** The company's most advanced camera has Hollywood-rivaling powers that capture 4K video at 30 frames per second. **$500**
3. **HTC RE Camera** With a 146-degree lens, this one-button camera is a novice photographer's dream and works with iOS and Android platforms. **$200**
4. **HP Sprout** This all-in-one creative workstation with a touch screen and touch pad lets you create, edit, and share projects virtually in real time. **$1,900**

TO LISTEN

1. **Parrot Zik 2.0 Headphones** You can tap the sides of these 'phones (which eliminate 98 percent of background noise) to adjust volume or skip tracks. **$400**
2. **Sonos Wireless Home-Theater System** A newly tweaked system lets you stream your music library right out of the box, simply using your home's Wi-Fi. **From $199**
3. **Bowers & Wilkins T7 Bluetooth Speaker** With hi-res streaming and thumping bass, this speaker's honeycomb design cuts those annoying vibration noises. **$350**
4. **Naim Mu-so Wireless Speaker System** This sleek soundbar features six custom-designed speakers that blast an off-the-charts 450 watts of music. **$1,500**
5. **Clearview Audio Clio "Invisible" Speaker** Made of acrylic glass, the razor-thin Clio is the ninja of speakers, effectively disappearing while pumping out 360-degree sound. **$349**
6. **Audi A8 Bang & Olufsen Advanced Sound System** The best in-car sound system on the market offers 19 loudspeakers for movie-friendly Dolby Digital surround sound. **$6,300**

TO SURF

1. **Apple iPhone 6 Plus** With Retina HD display, this slim (7.1 millimeters) Apple mobile is its largest at 5.5 inches. **From $300 with plan**
2. **Amazon Kindle Voyage** The thinnest Kindle yet (7.6 millimeters) has a six-week battery life and a hi-res display. **$199**
3. **Nvidia Shield and Controller** The eight-inch Android tablet and wireless controller grant gamers the ability to stream non-mobile games from their computer. **From $359**
4. **Samsung Galaxy Note Edge** This phone's curved screen makes it a cinch to flick through programs, even when the case is closed. **From $399 with plan**
5. **Apple iMac With Retina 5K Display** At 27 inches and packing in 14.7 million pixels, the latest iMac's got visuals that nearly put real life to shame. **$2,499**
6. **Amazon Fire TV Stick** Turn any TV into a smart TV by plugging this into the HDMI port to quickly and easily stream content. **$39** —BRYAN LUFKIN

➸ To learn more about our favorite, have-to-have-them tech products, visit **ew.com/techmustlist**

Movies

Liam Hemsworth and Jennifer Lawrence

MURRAY CLOSE

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay— Part 1

STARRING *Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Julianne Moore*
DIRECTED BY *Francis Lawrence*
PG-13, 2 HRS., 3 MINS.

By Chris Nashawaty

THE BIGGEST PROBLEM with the new *Hunger Games* movie is right there in the title: *Part 1. Mockingjay*, the final installment in Suzanne Collins' best-selling YA trilogy, wasn't conceived in two parts. That was a decision made in Hollywood by a studio looking to double down and milk every last dime out of its blockbuster franchise. The suits probably thought, "Hey, it worked for *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*, so why not us?" You can't blame them for wanting to keep the good times rolling. But it's a pretty cynical business plan, and it's led to a film that feels needlessly padded. *Mockingjay—Part 1* is like a term paper with the margins enlarged and the font size jacked up to reach the assigned number of pages.

This is especially disappointing because the previous chapter, 2013's *Catching Fire*, was such a pleasant surprise. While the 2012 original laid out Collins' dystopian death-sport milieu with flair and faithfulness, it was also a bit flat. *Catching Fire*, on the other hand, gave the heroine, Katniss Everdeen, an adrenalized urgency. As played by Jennifer Lawrence, Katniss developed into a character who was both brainy and badass. Now, in *Mockingjay—Part 1*, she's become passive. The movie picks up after the incendiary conclusion of *Catching Fire*'s Quarter Quell, when Katniss was rescued and brought to the rebels' underground fortress in District 13. Here, the anti-Capitol leaders plot their next strike against President Snow (Donald Sutherland), hatching a plan to turn Katniss into the fiery symbol of the resistance and spur the powerless citizens of Panem to rise up against the Capitol. It's a propaganda war, and she's the secret weapon—a Che Guevara T-shirt made flesh. The rebel brain trust includes President Coin (Julianne Moore, sporting silver Cruella De Vil locks), spin-savvy strategist Plutarch (Philip Seymour Hoffman, to whom the film is dedicated), hacker Beetee (Jeffrey Wright), the newly clean and sober Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), and Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks, channeling a drag queen). They send Katniss and Gale (Liam Hemsworth) to the front lines with a guerrilla film crew that records her battlefield heroics and beams it all back to the huddled masses.

But Snow has a secret weapon of his own. Kidnapped by the nefarious president's forces at the end of the last movie, Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) reappears in the Capitol, and in a series of interviews with the sensationalist journalist Caesar (Stanley Tucci), he denounces Katniss and urges a cease-fire. The betrayal devastates her, forcing her to realize that her feelings for him weren't a charade after all. With its *Wag the Dog* subplot and fist-in-the-air proletarianism, *Mockingjay* may be the most harmlessly Marxist movie to come out of Hollywood since *Reds*. I suppose director Francis Lawrence and writers Peter Craig and Danny Strong deserve some credit for daring to sneak any political cheekiness into a movie that's as big and corporate as this. But overall their hands are tied too tightly. While the series' first two films captured the grandeur of the outdoors during the kill-or-be-killed competitions, *Mockingjay* is mostly bound to the bleak and claustrophobic bowels of a bunker. It suffocates the film. And when the story finally *does* manage to get interesting toward the end, it just screeches to a halt and cuts off, leaving fans wriggling on the hook for a finale they won't get to see for another 12 months. That's not a cliff-hanger, that's just a tease. **B–**

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY—PART 1: MURRAY CLOSE; INTERSTELLAR: MELINDA SUE GORDON

Philip Seymour Hoffman and Julianne Moore

DIRECTOR FRANCIS LAWRENCE AND HIS WRITERS DESERVE SOME CREDIT FOR DARING TO SNEAK ANY POLITICAL CHEEKINESS INTO A MOVIE THIS CORPORATE. BUT OVERALL THEIR HANDS ARE TIED TOO TIGHTLY.

THIS FILM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

EA	D	OC	FS	DH
EXPLOSIVE ARROW	DO-RAGS	ORANGE CAT	FOLK SONGS	DEER HUNTING

CRITICAL MASS

For 10 current releases, we compare EW's grade with scores averaged from IMDb, Metacritic, and Rotten Tomatoes

	EW	IMDb	METACRITIC	ROTTEN TOMATOES	AVG.
NIGHTCRAWLER	B+	83	76	94	84
FOXCATCHER	B–	79	85	85	83
BIG HERO 6	B+	84	75	88	82
INTERSTELLAR ↗	B–	90	74	74	79
JOHN WICK	A–	79	67	84	77
THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	B+	80	72	80	77
THE BOOK OF LIFE	A–	75	67	82	75
BEYOND THE LIGHTS	B+	54	71	86	70
ROSEWATER	B+	64	66	72	67
DUMB AND DUMBER TO	C–	77	37	27	47

Hilary Swank and Tommy Lee Jones

The Homesman

STARRING *Hilary Swank, Tommy Lee Jones*
DIRECTED BY *Tommy Lee Jones*
R, 2 HRS.

By Chris Nashawaty

BACK IN 2005, Tommy Lee Jones made his feature-directing debut with the death-trip Western *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*. The film hinted that behind his crusty Lone Star facade, Jones might actually be the heir to Sam Peckinpah—an uncompromising maverick with a sweet tooth for sagebrush sagas about bleak macho redemption. In his latest sojourn behind the camera, *The Homesman*, Jones shifts his sights to a feminist heroine but never really explores the intriguing possibilities of that choice.

Set in the remote Nebraska Territory of the 1850s, the film tells the story of Mary Bee Cuddy, a stern, unmarried frontierswoman (Hilary Swank) who volunteers to transport to Iowa three women driven mad by prairie fever. Riding shotgun on the treacherous five-week trek is Jones' George Briggs, a muttonchopped scoundrel who agrees to accompany Mary only because she saved him from being hanged. Well, that and the promise of $300. As they cross the savage, unforgiving plains with their wailing cargo of lost souls, the two forge a frosty sort of friendship that will be familiar to anyone who's seen Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn swap insults in *The African Queen*. She's a brassy, God-fearing prig; he's a surly, whiskey-soaked heathen whom she rehabilitates into a man of conscience. With her sad, haunted eyes and "plain as a tin pail" looks, Swank is by far the best thing in the movie. More than most actresses, she seems unburdened by vanity. She manages to burrow deep inside her character and find the heartbreaking loneliness beneath the self-righteous bluster. But while the film is bathed in a beautiful magic-hour glow courtesy of cinematographer Rodrigo Prieto, Jones' journey doesn't quite take off. Not only is the plight of the women they're carrying never reasonably explained, George's conversion from Yosemite Sam to Good Samaritan isn't convincing for a second. **C+**

DAWN JONES

From the author of GOODNIGHT iPAD comes a cautionary "tail"
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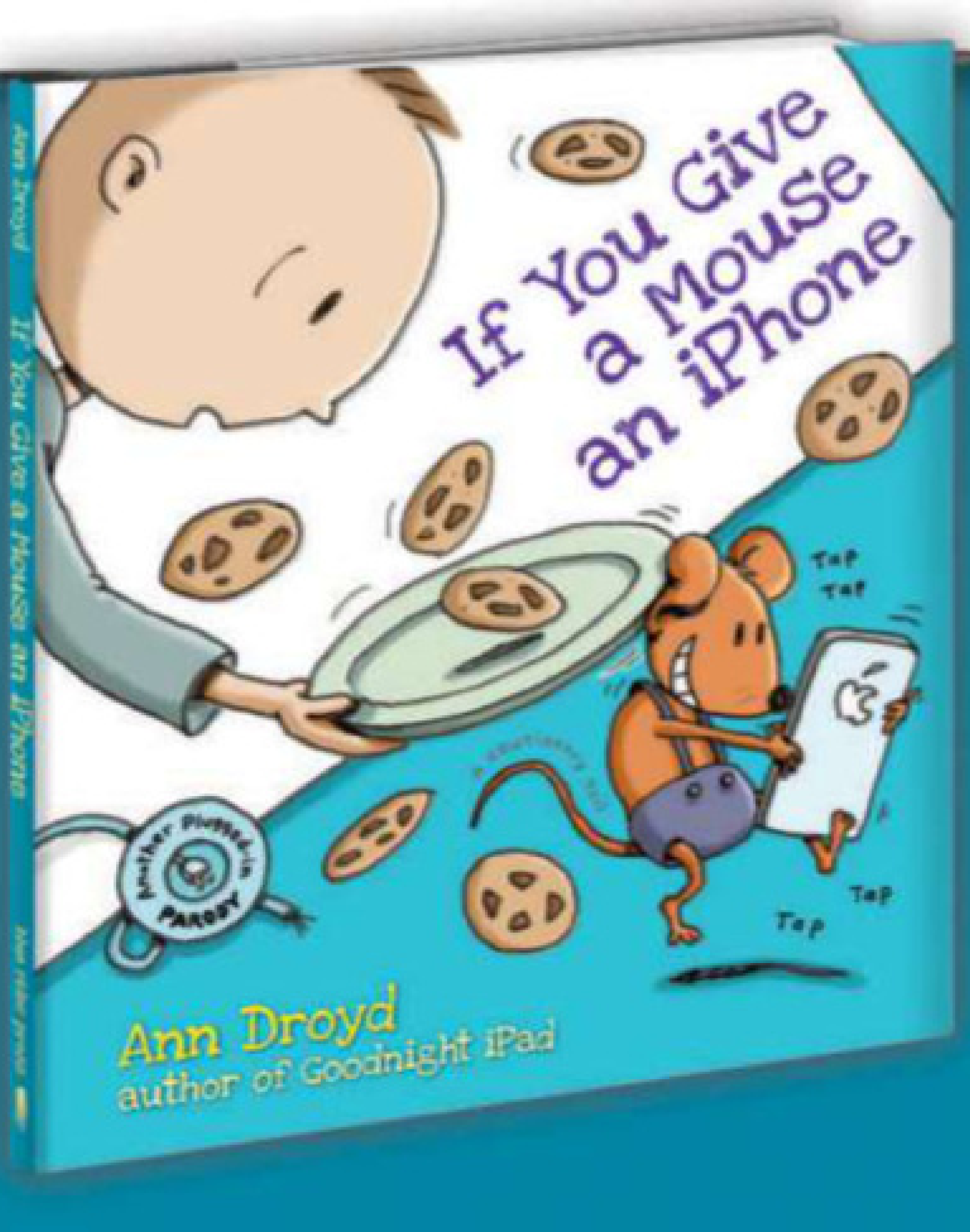

Jason Clarke in *The Better Angels*

Also Playing

The Better Angels

PG, 1 HR., 34 MINS.

A.J. Edwards has worked on the crews of several Terrence Malick productions in the past decade, and his directorial debut, about the harsh frontier childhood of Abraham Lincoln, is heavily influenced by the *Tree of Life* auteur. The stars of the film, ostensibly, are nature and the camera, but if you focus hard enough, you'll catch the story of the two loving women who encouraged a curious boy and pointed him toward immortality. It feels more like a poem. Or, at times, a symphony. But it's much less effective as an actual movie. **C–** *—Jeff Labrecque* **L**

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night

NR, 1 HR., 39 MINS.

Just when you thought you'd seen every possible variation on the vampire tale, along comes an Iranian bloodsucker romance set to spaghetti-Western music. Shot in inky black and white, Ana Lily Amirpour's fractured Farsi fright flick has a spooky, otherworldly quality. It's like an early Jim Jarmusch indie set in Little Tehran at 4 a.m. It's all a bit too slow and slack, but the image of a female vampire clad in a black hijab is one you won't soon forget. And I can't wait to see the director's *next* film. **B–** *—Chris Nashawaty* **L**

Happy Valley

NR, 1 HR., 38 MINS.

Much has already been written about the 2011 child sex-abuse scandal at Penn State—how assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky molested minors and how his boss, the revered Joe Paterno, didn't do enough to report it. Director Amir Bar-Lev goes to the ironically named Happy Valley campus and finds a community still grappling with the tragedy. The documentary offers a compelling overview of the case, but Bar-Lev spends too much time painting Paterno as a victim and scapegoat. That advocacy doesn't sit well. **B–** *—Chris Nashawaty* **L I V**

National Gallery

NR, 3 HRS., 3 MINS.

The knowledge that Rembrandt recycled his own paintings doesn't minimize the scene in Frederick Wiseman's documentary where we see an X-ray of one of the Dutch master's portraits—and go, "*Wow!*" It's one magnificent moment among dozens in this iridescent look at London's premier art institution. Gazing at the guides, curators, restorers, and visitors, Wiseman finds gold flecks of metaphor, especially during debates between the museum director and his PR team, when he frets about "looking as if one's short of cash and desperate for publicity." **A** *—Joe McGovern* **L**

National Gallery

Starry Eyes

NR, 1 HR., 38 MINS.

"What price fame?" is not an original question. But writer-directors Kevin Kolsch and Dennis Widmyer break new ground with the horrific answer they deliver. Alex Essoe plays an L.A. actress whose desperate quest for success leads her to a sinister organization. You'll have to watch this skillful combination of occult thriller and Cronenbergian gruesome-fest to find out what happens next. Horror fans should keep their eyes on the filmmakers—and Essoe, who gives a star-making performance. **B+** *—Clark Collis* **L I V**

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TV

Claire Danes, Julianna Margulies, Katherine Heigl, Kate Walsh, and Téa Leoni

DANES: JOE ALBLAS/SHOWTIME; MARGULIES: JEFF NEUMANN/CBS; HEIGL: MICHAEL PARMELEE/NBC; WALSH: NEIL JACOBS/NBC; LEONI: PATRICK HARBRON/CBS

TV Tries to Lean In

The fall season has seen a surge of women in charge in prime time, but this new guard still traffics in old clichés.

By Jeff Jensen

TELEVISION NEEDS another catch-a-terrorist CIA thriller as much as it needs another catch-a-bogeyman superhero romp. But NBC's *State of Affairs* tries hard to be more than just a sensationalistic gloss on global politics; it wants to be a flash point in the cultural conversation about gender politics, too. Katherine Heigl plays Charleston Tucker, a spy with a boy's name and a ballsy job: Every day she produces a book for the president (Alfre Woodard) prioritizing threats to the nation. At many points in the pilot, executive producer Joe Carnahan (*The Blacklist*) baits the audience into reacting to an unabashedly powerful, complicated, sexual woman as if it were a Rorschach test for sexism. The fact that she's played by Heigl, a polarizing star, both enhances and dilutes the provocation. The whole experiment is rigged in her favor, actually: Charlie's world is Taylor Swiftian with male haters, and she's got dead-boyfriend grief to process anyway, so just chill with your judgy, okay? Welcome to *Shake It Off: Zero Dark Thirty Edition*.

State of Affairs arrives late and loud to a season abundant with shows about women in authority or chasing it. *Madam Secretary* tracks the ripped-from-the-headlines trials and tribulations of a rookie-year secretary of state, Elizabeth McCord, played by a wry and dry Téa Leoni. *Bad Judge* sticks a delightfully game and gamy Kate Walsh on a cancellation-bound sitcom about an iconoclastic gavel banger with a rock & roll lifestyle named Rebecca Wright. Some incumbent dramas are promoting women up the chain of command to elevated effect. Carrie Mathison (Claire Danes) now runs her own spy shop on *Homeland*, while Alicia Florrick (Julianna Margulies) is angling for state's attorney on *The Good Wife*. The new women's work of prime time: truth, justice, and the American way of skulduggery.

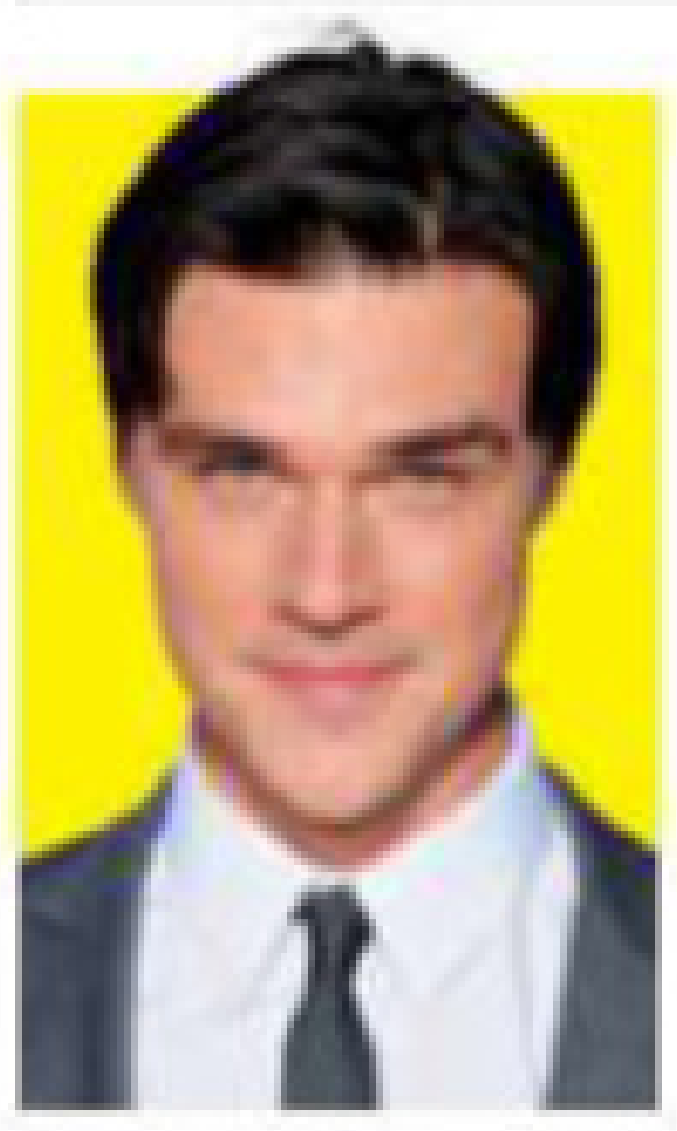
Progress? Kinda. Both *Bad Judge* and *State of Affairs* promised bold expressions of womanhood, albeit garbed in clichéd heroism, the rebel reformer who plays by her own rules and thinks outside the box. We got that, plus more of what we don't need (in women or men)—the emotionally arrested vocational savant. "I'm a slob in my personal life and a sniper in my professional life," declares Charlie with pride. The lady doth protest too much. Her hookups aren't randy-dandy healthy but reckless bids to numb psychic pain. (*Bad Judge* also took some of the fun out of Rebecca's unrepentant bawdiness by saddling her with relationship issues.) I'm all for deconstructing the idol of put-together, do-it-all, have-it-all wonder-womanhood, but Charlie is an appealingly imperfect character in search of better writing. She lacks the unique complexity of *Homeland*'s Carrie or *The Good Wife*'s soon-to-depart Kalinda (Archie Panjabi), a sniper on the job *and* in bed.

THE CHARLIES AND McCORDS OF TV MAKE FOR REFRESHING, RELEVANT, BUT FLAWED WISH-FULFILLMENT FANTASY. THEY SHOULD BE BETTER.

The surge in strong women has also brought with it an uptick in dickish men wired to resent them. The CIAs of *Affairs* and *Homeland* are lousy with such cutouts. On *Secretary*, Željko Ivanek plays the bullying chief of staff, threatened by McCord's personal relationship with POTUS. This antagonism speaks to a reality where sexism often comes coded or unwittingly expressed, but it also feels like a cheap ploy to endear us to characters by victimizing them. The use of infinitely patient men with enlightened regard for female authority invites similar suspicion. But I do enjoy the role reversal of Tim Daly's supportive super-spouse to Leoni's secretary. He's an Aquinas-quoting religion prof prone to sincere pillow talk such as "I like women in positions of power." Now, that's a progressive characterization.

Watching these shows, I am confronted by my own sexism. I want to criticize *Affairs* and *Secretary* for launching with stories about their leads rescuing hostages. Both allowed personal feelings to inform—or cloud—their judgment. With McCord, the captives were kids, and she's a mother. With Charlie, the hostage resembled her boyfriend. Would "sniper" pros really succumb to such sentimentality? Better question: Would I be as hard on them if they were men? I don't know. The Charlies and McCords of TV make for refreshing, relevant, but flawed wish-fulfillment fantasy. They should be better. So should I.

AMERICAN HORROR STORY



Finn Wittrock Tells Tales

The 30-year-old, who plays socialite serial killer Dandy Mott on *American Horror Story: Freak Show*, talks about clowning around. **—TIM STACK**

▸FULL-TIME FREAK

Finn Wittrock, who appeared in *AHS* co-creator Ryan Murphy's HBO film *The Normal Heart*, had no idea his role on *Freak Show* would be so pivotal when he landed it. "I was not going to be a season regular when we first started," the actor explains. "I had just a handful of episodes I knew I was going to do. After the first day of filming, Ryan was like, 'We want to make Dandy a regular. Do you want to be on the show for real?' I was like, 'Great! I'm loving this guy!'"

▸KILLING COSTARS

Wittrock's murderous Mott has already dispatched two guest stars, Patti LaBelle and Matt Bomer (with whom he costarred in *Heart*). "I realized Dandy almost only kills famous people," he jokes. "You'll see—there's more. Patti had invited me to one of her concerts, and I couldn't make it. Then we filmed that scene and I was like, 'Dammit, now I'll never be allowed at a Patti LaBelle concert!'"

▸EXERCISE EXHIBITION

The Nov. 5 episode of the FX series found Dandy completing an elaborate exercise routine while dressed only in a pair of tighty-whities. So is Wittrock a modest man? "I'm not modest anymore!" he says with a laugh. "The thought of being that exposed was a little daunting. But everyone was very respectful. And Dandy isn't shy, so that gives you some courage."

On *American Horror Story: Freak Show*

WITTROCK: JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC.COM; *AMERICAN HORROR STORY: FREAK SHOW*: MICHELE K. SHORT/FX

ALERTE ENLÈVEMENT

Eric Godon, Frances O'Connor, and James Nesbitt

LIAM DANIEL/COMPANY TELEVISION PRODUCTION

The Missing

Saturdays, 9 p.m.

STARZ

By Melissa Maerz

LATELY, WHEN DRAMAS want to raise the emotional stakes, they rely on an old tactic: children in mortal danger. Carrie almost drowned her baby on *Homeland*. A cannibal tried to break a tyke's neck on *The Walking Dead*. There are child murders on *True Detective*, *Scandal*, *Gracepoint*, and now—possibly—*The Missing*, a new drama from Starz. It's a terrible fact of life that children sometimes die, but these numbers are disproportionate. Now that dead kids are everywhere, the worst horror imaginable feels banal.

To be fair, I'm only assuming that the British boy on *The Missing* is dead: Five-year-old Oliver loses track of his parents, Emily (Frances O'Connor) and Tony (James Nesbitt), while vacationing in France, and in the eight years since he was last seen, the detective (Tchéky Karyo) has started to treat the case as a homicide. Told through two time frames—one shows the immediate aftermath of Oliver's disappearance, the other finds Tony investigating today—the series trades in familiar archetypes. There's the journalist (Arsher Ali) bent on exploiting the story and the detective who won't retire before he solves *one last case*.

There are also hints of greatness. The cinematography is beautiful, with the present cast in a melancholy blue and the past cast in yellow, as if to remind us that terrible things are done in broad daylight. Some minor characters are intriguing: Titus De Voogdt is haunting as a local pedophile. And each episode has thoughtful things to say about paths untaken and lives unled. But *The Missing* doesn't have much to say about the loss of a child beyond that it's an Unbearable Tragedy. In one scene, a land developer (Ken Stott) helping Tony reveals why he loves bluesman Robert Johnson's music. "You can feel him aching," he says. "Always makes me feel better about my own life." That's one reason to watch dead-child dramas, too. But *The Missing* makes me wonder: Is that enough? **B**

MAY THE VERSE BE WITH YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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Music

TV ON THE RADIO: JUCO

TV on The Radio

Seeds

INDIE ROCK (HARVEST)

By Kyle Anderson

A FEW YEARS AGO, some music critics took to referring to Wilco as "the American Radiohead," an enviable descriptor that suggests a group's willingness to experiment while maintaining a fundamental musical identity that is both intellectually and viscerally satisfying. With all due respect to Jeff Tweedy, that title rightfully belongs to Brooklyn's TV on the Radio, the 21st century's most gloriously shifty art-pop experiment.

A jittery intensity powers *Seeds*, the band's fifth album. Perhaps it stems from some sort of midlife reevaluation. (The members are hovering around 40.) Or maybe the 2011 passing of bassist Gerard Smith, at age 36, reminded them how delicate life can be.

Whatever the origin of this anxious aggression, *Seeds* benefits—it's a dramatically nimble improvement upon 2011's more languid *Nine Types of Light*. The fuzzy "Lazerray" charges head-down, but elsewhere, that restless energy emerges in more fully integrated ways. It's in the pleading questions Kyp Malone asks during "Could You," in the subtle drone on the outskirts of the otherwise bubbly "Test Pilot," and in the swell of strings on the warm, wonderful title track.

The result is an album that feels like it demanded to exist. TVOTR clearly love to tinker with synths, samples, and percussion, but unlike other groups who spelunk through sonic architecture, they're still concerned with making pretty songs that service the head and the heart. Considering how little humanity has lurked in recent Radiohead releases, maybe they should aspire to be "the British TV on the Radio." **A–**

BEST TRACKS

QUARTZ
The spacey and slippery opener

COULD YOU
A joyous, horn-infused rave-up

ONE DIRECTION: R.J. SHAUGHNESSY

ONE DIRECTION
FOUR

One Direction

Four

POP (SYCO/COLUMBIA)

By Adam Markovitz

BOY BANDS ARE LIKE goldfish prizes from a town fair: Nobody knows what to do with them after the novelty wears off. If you're *NSYNC or New Kids on the Block, you just break up and then snap back for the odd tour or halftime show. If you're Menudo, you regenerate prepubescent heads for decades, like a sequin-shirted Hydra. If you're the Backstreet Boys or Boyz II Men, you try your best to age gracefully into bald spots and nostalgia tours.

One Direction have been around since 2010, making the group about 49 in Twitter years—ripe for a midlife crisis. Which is why it's nice to hear them sounding more confident than ever on *Four*, their unimaginatively named fourth LP. There's no pandering for tween relevance, nary an "OMG" nor an EDM interlude. In fact, most of the album could qualify as neo-folkie classic rock, like Phillip Phillips karaoke-ing Bryan Adams in a Journey T-shirt. Power chords and shout-alongs abound, with the quintet emoting about love over organic-sounding drums and strings. This works well on the album's first half, where the melodies are sturdy and the lyrics catchy ("Where Do Broken Hearts Go," "18"). Later, the titles get sillier ("Stockholm Syndrome"), and the guitar-jam vibe turns as dull as every real-life guitar jam. But when *Four* ends, your ears are guilt-free, which is a new feat for Harry, Liam, Zayn, Louis, and Niall. They're all in their 20s now—not boys anymore. And *Four* is solid enough to make you interested in the men they'll become. **B–**

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ON THE RECORD

BRYAN FERRY: CAN'T STOP THE ROXY

The founder of Roxy Music—Bill Murray's karaoke choice, by the way—has a new solo album called *Avonmore*, an enduring love for dance music, and considerable insight into Nile Rodgers' favorite hobbies. —KYLE ANDERSON

The first Roxy Music album came out in 1972, and your 2012 release was a jazz album. Now you've made a pop record in 2014—what's the deal?

It's what I do. I feel there's still songs I want to write, and people I want to work with, and sounds I want to make. I don't feel I've completed my task.

Superproducer Nile Rodgers, who co-wrote Daft Punk's "Get Lucky," plays on *Avonmore*. How did you two meet?

What a character! I first met Nile when I was working in New York in 1983 on an album called *Boys and Girls*. He's a fantastic musician and a great intellect. He's very curious. You'll often find him talking about his stamp collection or something. He's a master of the unexpected.

You've been connected to dance music for most of your career. What do you think about the current wave?

James Brown doesn't age. Neither does Sister Sledge. There's some really good dance music about, though some of it I find a bit boring. It's a bit too monotonous for me, and it takes too much time to develop. I end up just waiting around going, "Hmm. Is the bass gonna come in?" But it can be very exciting.

You've always had tremendous style. How much of your '70s wardrobe do you still have?

I have an archive at my studio with old photographs and films, and there's a few things that were designed by [legendary clothier] Antony Price, who is my great friend. He'd kill me if I threw them away, so I've still got some of the old suits.

One of your most iconic songs is Roxy Music's "More Than This," which got a second life when Bill Murray sang it in *Lost in Translation*. Why do you think that song still resonates?

It's had a life of its own. It's great when a song does that; I'm always very grateful. For some reason, there's something in the combination of the melody and the lyric that works for people.

ALSO AVAILABLE

→ ALBUMS

DEPECHE MODE
Live in Berlin

Recorded in November 2013, *Live in Berlin* is a two-CD set accompanied by a DVD boasting 145 minutes of concert footage. The band's glam theatrics and exquisite dirginess are broken up by interviews covering their 30-year tenure as the world's preeminent arena synth act. **A–** —*Madison Vain*

BUZZCOCKS
The Way

Eight years after their last LP, Manchester, U.K.'s punk pioneers return with a blistering 10-track album. They've added a new rhythm section, but little else has changed. Still, this sharp, addictive collection winks at the past in ways the already devoted will love. **B** —*Madison Vain*

→ SINGLES

MARK RONSON FEAT. BRUNO MARS
"UPTOWN FUNK"

For his next throwback trick, Mars channels a *Purple Rain*-era Morris Day over a guttural workout laid down by expert nostalgist Ronson. It crackles just enough to keep out the chill after a dip in Lake Minnetonka. **B** —*Kyle Anderson*

FIFTH HARMONY
"SLEDGEHAMMER"

The ladies reveal, "If you take my pulse right now/It would feel just like a sledgehammer." If that troublesome heart rate is the secret to creating club-ready delights like this, may they never get that checked out. **B+** —*Kyle Anderson*

FERRY: JULIAN BROAD/CONTOUR; FIFTH HARMONY: BEN COPE

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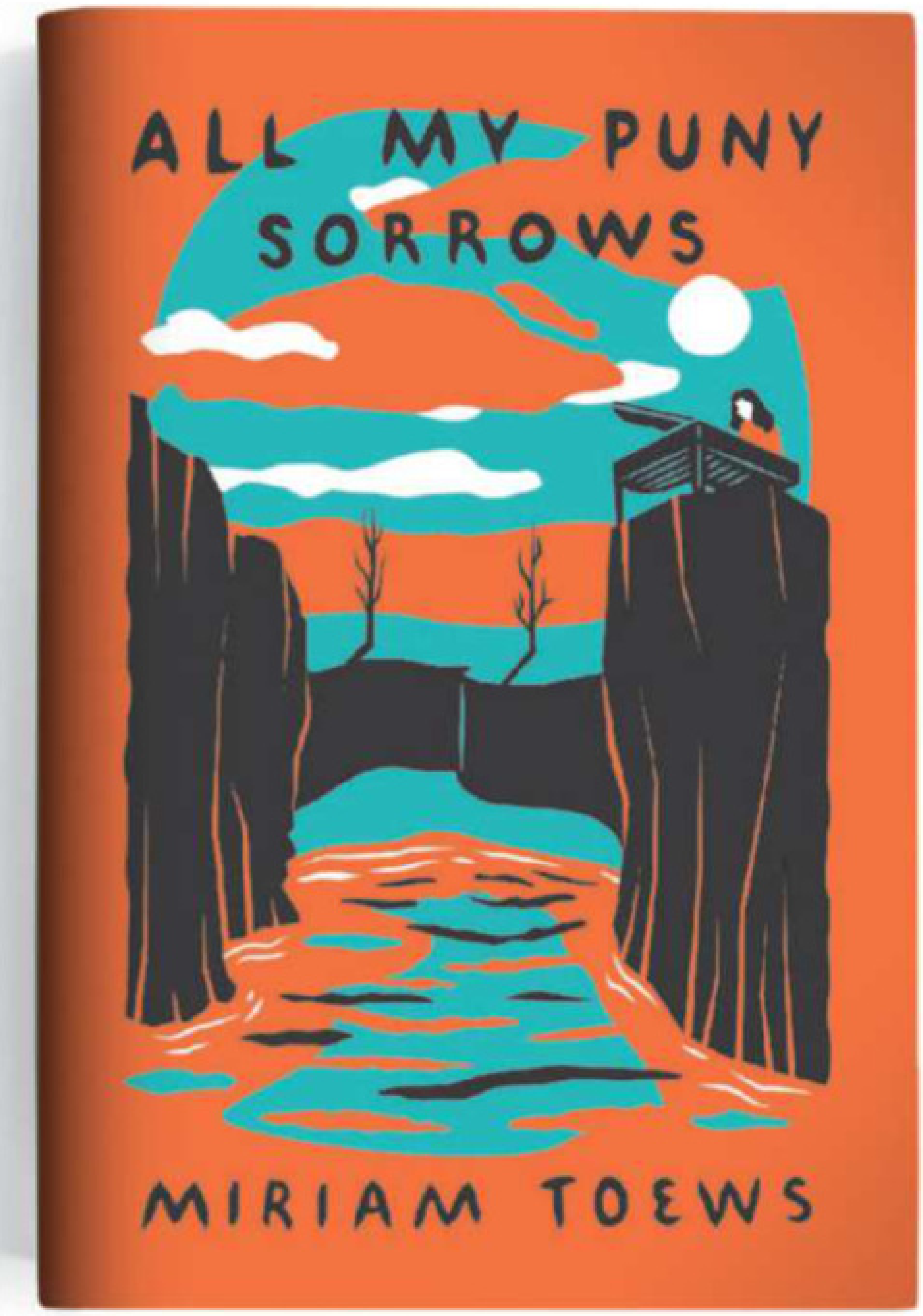


All My Puny Sorrows

Miriam Toews

NOVEL

By Melissa Maerz

SHE WANTED TO DIE and I wanted her to live and we were enemies who loved each other.” That’s how Yoli describes her relationship with her sister, Elf, in this wrenchingly honest, darkly funny novel. A concert pianist with everything to live for—a doting husband, an illustrious job, a close-knit family—Elf wants to commit suicide, while Yoli, struggling with her career and a divorce, will do anything to keep her sister alive. The saddest thing about this book is that we already know how it ends: It was inspired by the true story of Miriam Toews and her sister, Marjorie, who ended her life in 2010 by jumping in front of a train, 12 years after their father killed himself the same way. (Toews wrote about his suicide in the award-winning memoir *Swing Low: A Life*.) But somehow, even as Toews works toward an inevitable conclusion, the pacing is gripping, leaving you—like Yoli—desperate to predict what Elf will do next, and helpless to stop it.

Told in Yoli’s raw voice, which swings from sympathy to rage to wry humor, *All My Puny Sorrows* isn’t just another volume in the sad-novel genre. In one scene, Yoli’s mother even rants about novels where “the whole book is basically a description of the million and one ways in which the protagonist is sad.” *Sorrows* may be a fierce dissection of loss, but it’s also an unflinching look at family and failure and self-interest and how great literature can help shape your view of these things. (The title comes from a Samuel Taylor Coleridge poem about losing his sister; Elf and Yoli often discuss favorite poets.) This book certainly does that too. Early on, Elf tells Yoli how to play the piano. You must first establish tenderness, she says. Then the excitement will build, as you put “the violence and agony of life into every note” until you must make an important decision: Either return to tenderness or “continue on with the truth, the violence, the pain, the tragedy, to the very end.” It’s an apt description of how Toews has constructed this novel, too, with one exception: In the end, she chooses tragedy. But the tenderness was there all along. **A**

MEMORABLE LINE

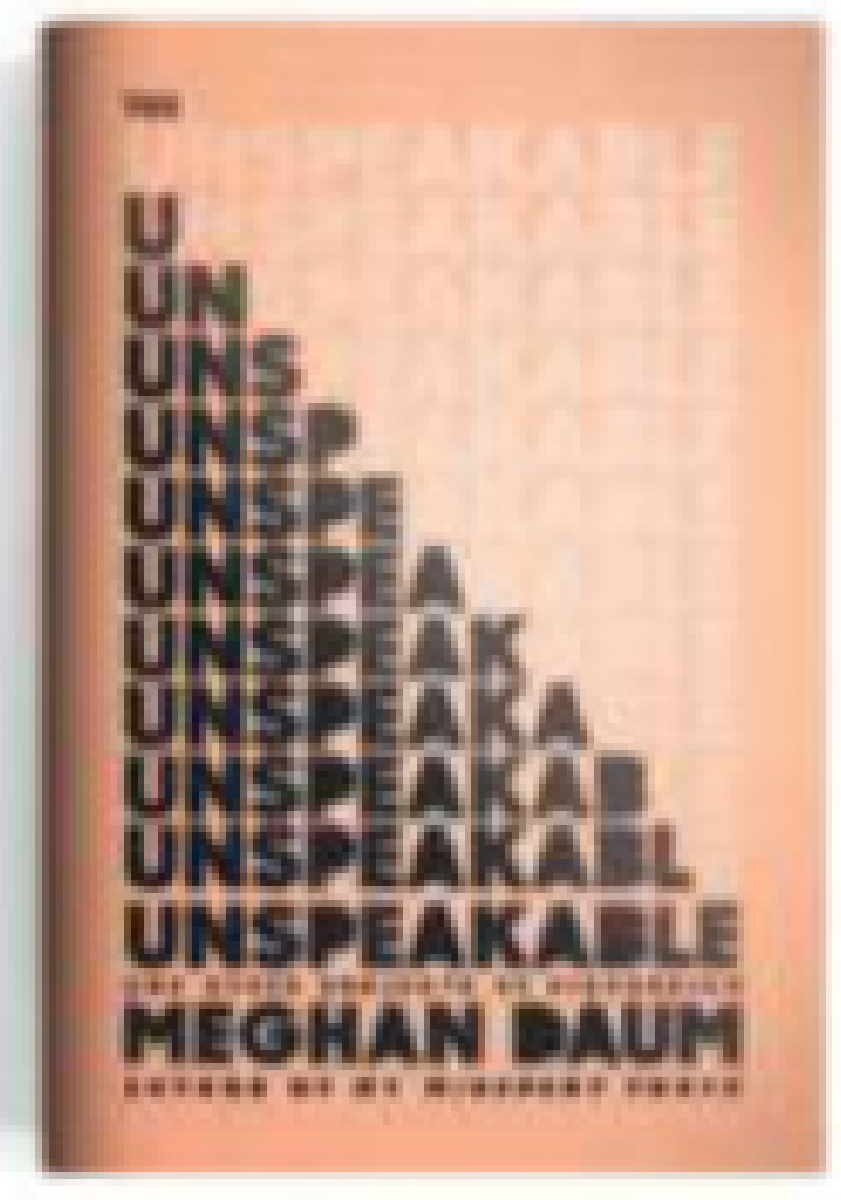
“...the day before my father killed himself he took my hand in his and said Yoli, it feels to me as though the lights are going out.”

The Unspeakable

Meghan Daum

NONFICTION

By Sara Vilkomerson



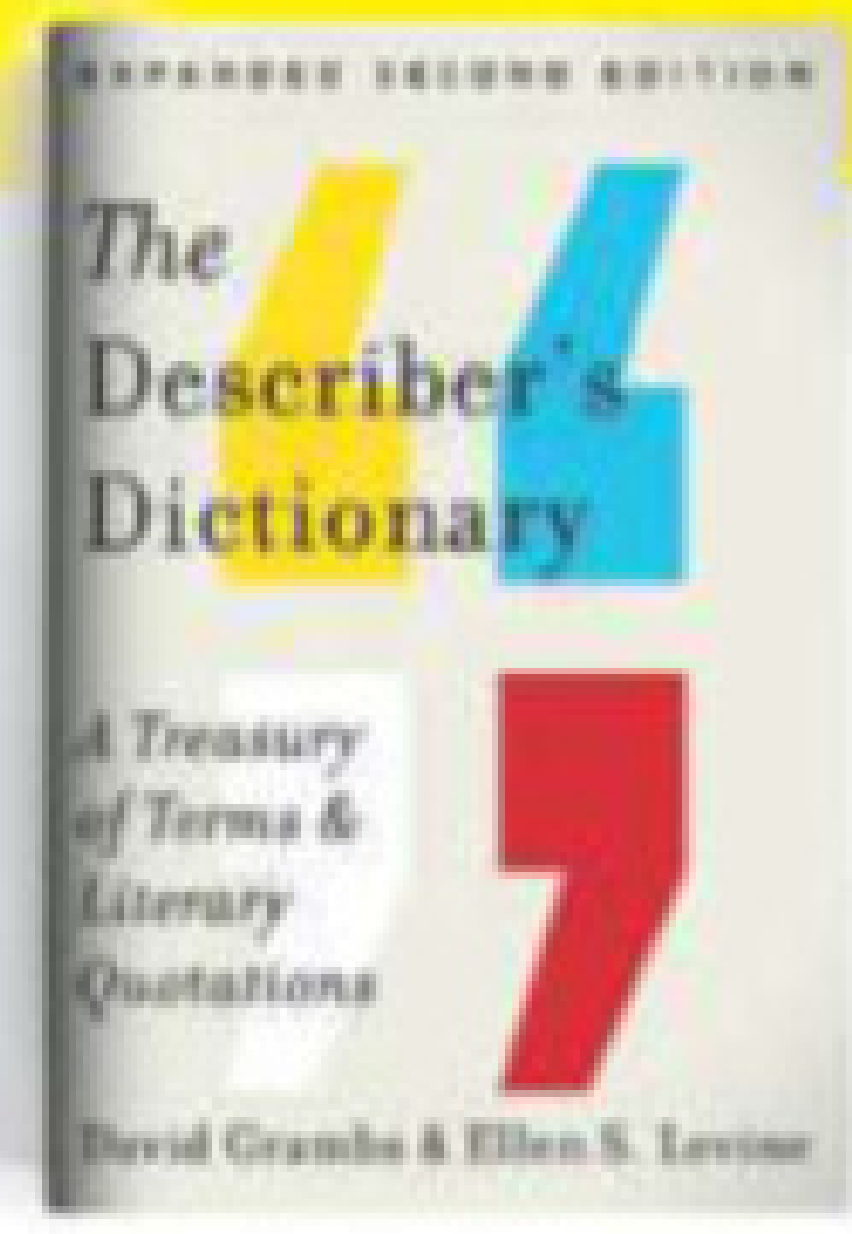
SOMETIMES OUR feelings—and our reactions to the things that happen to us—go rogue. Emotions are the messy, unpredictable part of being human. It's those murky corners of the heart that are hardest to acknowledge, let alone talk about. That's the unnamed place where Meghan Daum's sharp collection of essays lives. This book, as she writes in her introduction, "is about the ways that some of life's most burning issues are considered inappropriate for public or even private discussion. It's about the unspeakable thoughts many of us harbor—that we might not love our parents enough, that life's pleasures sometimes feel more like chores—but can only talk about in coded terms if at all. It's about the unspeakable acts that teach no easy lesson and therefore are elbowed out of sight."

Daum, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, tackles personal topics large and small with a staunch gaze. "This book also recounts some pretty unflattering behavior on my part, not to mention a few disclosures about my interior life that some readers will probably find depressing or even alarming," she warns early on before *going there* while examining her feelings on marriage, her ambivalence about having children, and her mother's death.

But there are lighter moments: She writes about dating inappropriate men (think Burning Man and astrology), what it was like meeting her lifelong hero Joni Mitchell, and the period in her life when everyone assumed she was a lesbian. If you've been missing Nora Ephron—and who hasn't?—Daum's tale about playing charades at Ephron's house is so well observed and funny it could have been written by the great lady herself.

Look, life is difficult—and so is dealing with all the unpleasantness that comes along with it. Thank goodness *The Unspeakable* exists to keep you company. **A**

DAUM: DAVID ZAUGH



EXPANDED SECOND EDITION
The Describer's Dictionary
A Treasury of Terms & Literary Quotations
David Grambs & Ellen S. Levine

Having a Way With Words

This reference book of purely descriptive terms is like a thesaurus, only better. And for extra inspiration, *The Describer's Dictionary* comes packed with real literary examples. —**TINA JORDAN**

Very warm

DEFINITION *Hot, torrid, burning, blazing, scorching, blistering, broiling, baking, searing, roasting, tropical, pitiless*

EXAMPLE "Down river, from Andy's Landing, a burned-off cedar snag held the sun spitted like an apple, hissing and dripping juices against a grill of Indian Summer clouds. All the hillside, all the drying Himalaya vine that lined the big river, and the sugar maple trees farther up, **burned** a dark brick and over-lit red." —KEN KESEY, *SOMETIMES A GREAT NOTION*

Reddish brown

DEFINITION *Mahogany, umber, chestnut, bay, cinnamon, henna, russet, copper, walnut, oxblood, roan, rosewood*

EXAMPLE "Mother's yellow station wagon slid like a Monopoly icon along the gray road that cut between the fields of Iowa corn, which was chlorophyll green and punctured in the distance by gargantuan silver silos and gleaming, unrusted tractors glazed **cinnamon** red." —MARY KARR, *LIT*

Hair

DEFINITION *Tress, lock, strand, shock, hank, coil, tendril, curl, ringlet, swirl, tuft*

EXAMPLE "Looking in the huge mirror, she considers her hair, a cloud of maddened bees. In lieu of an hour with hot irons and pins, she catches one honey-brown **curl** and thrusts it back into the hive." —EMMA DONOGHUE, *FROG MUSIC*

Cumulus clouds

DEFINITION *Separate, distinctively shaped puffs or fleecy domed or towered piles of cloud*

EXAMPLE "Sometimes, when they came down from the cirrus levels to catch a better wind, they would find themselves among the flocks of **cumulus**—huge towers of modelled vapour, looking as white as Monday's washing and as solid as meringues." —T.H. WHITE, *THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING*

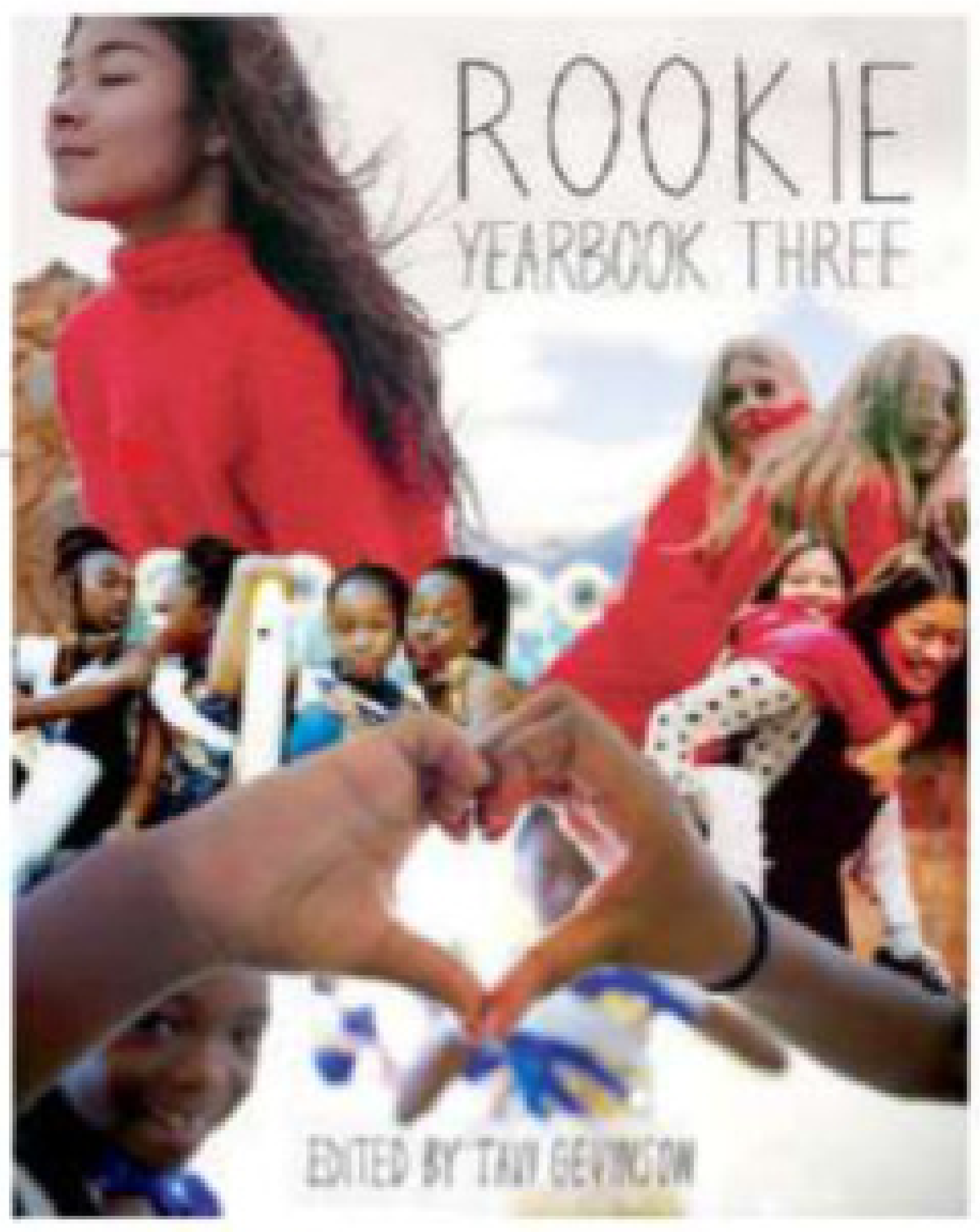
BOOKS OF MY LIFE

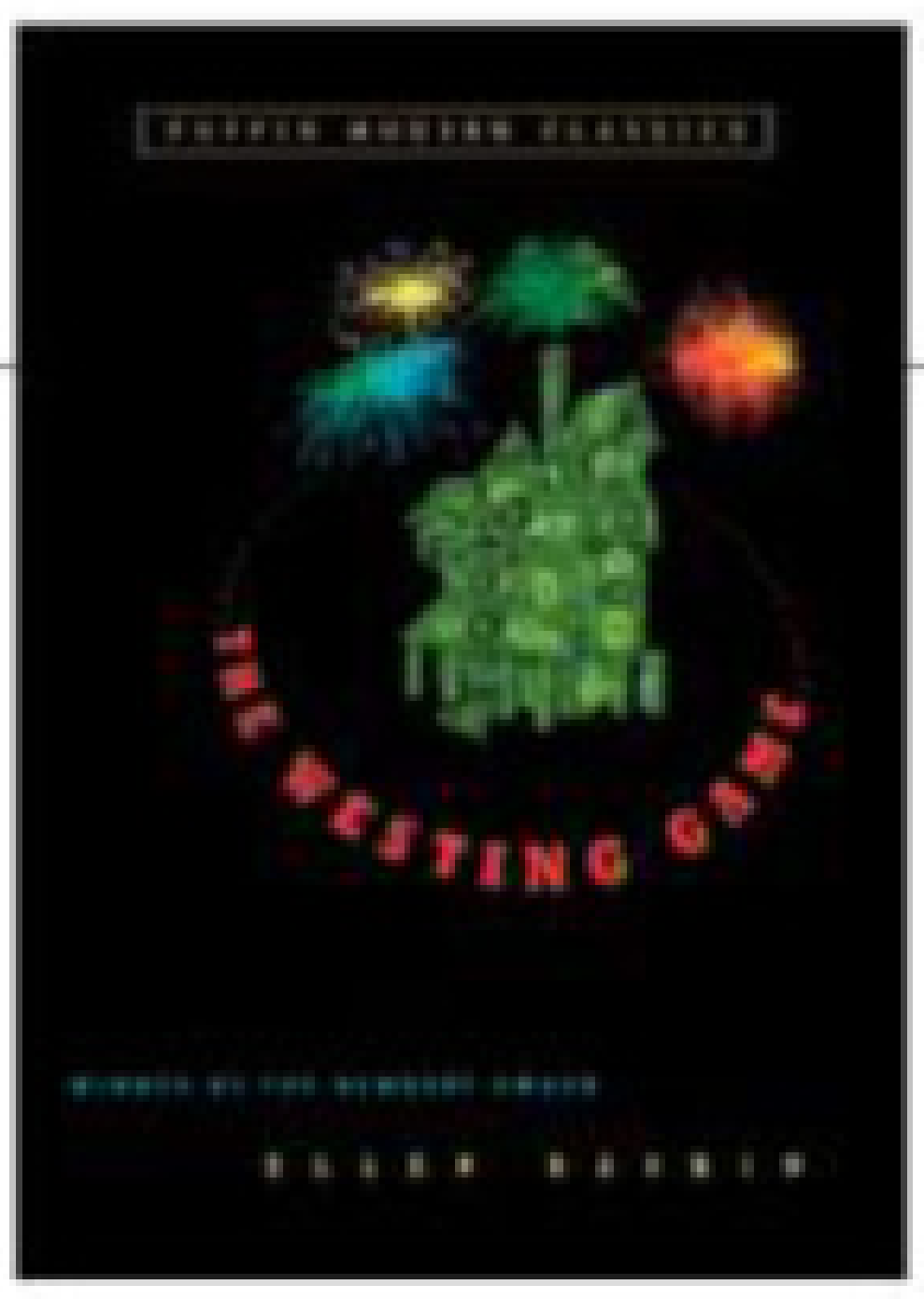
NAME **Tavi Gevinson** 18-YEAR-OLD WRITER, EDITOR, ACTRESS

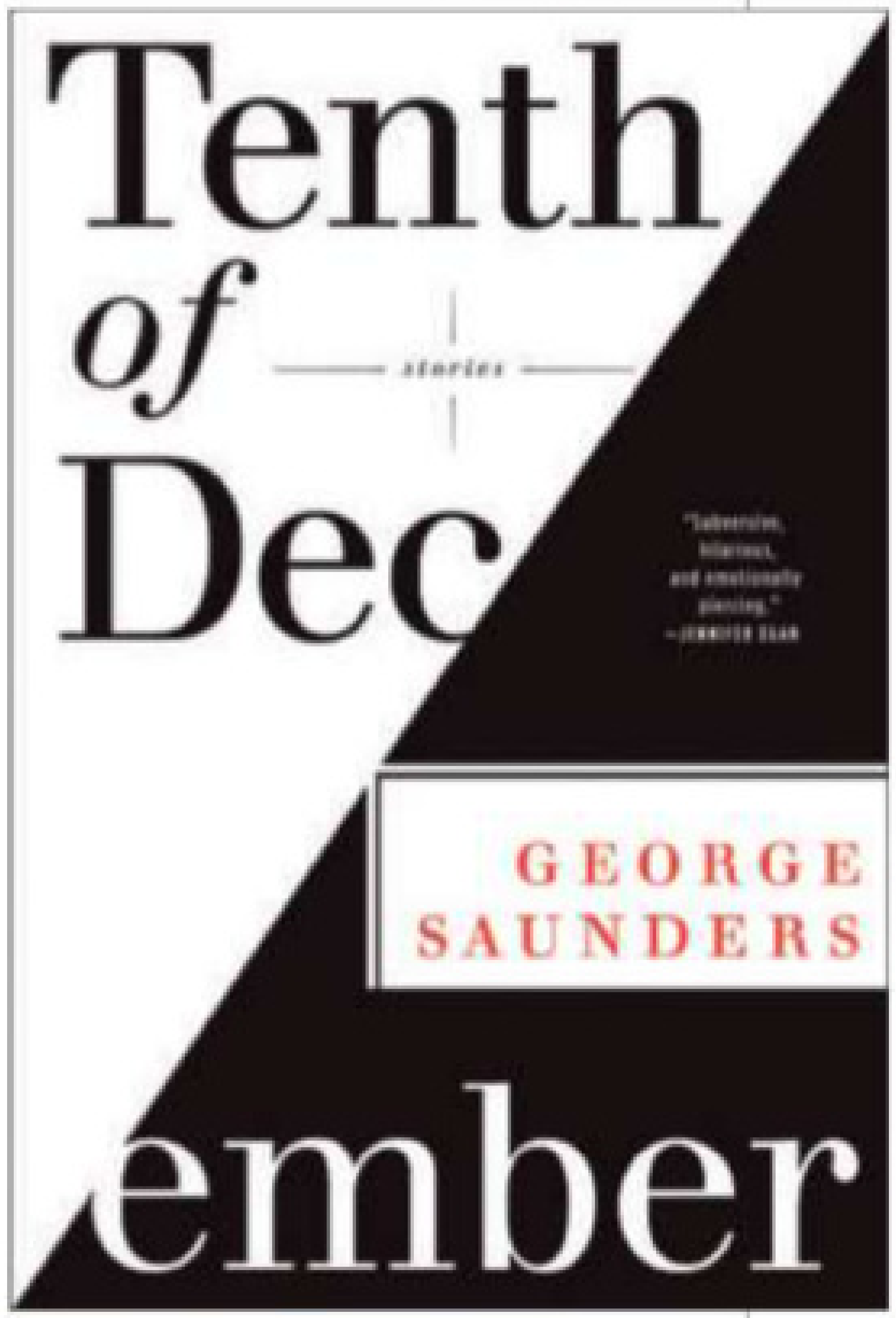
NUMBER OF BOOKS WRITTEN **Three**

MOST RECENT ***Rookie Yearbook Three***

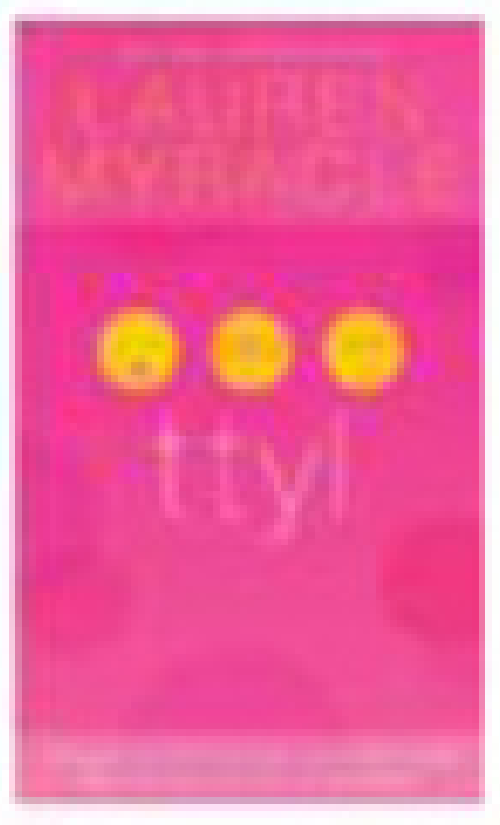
WHAT IT IS **Collected best from her online girls' magazine**

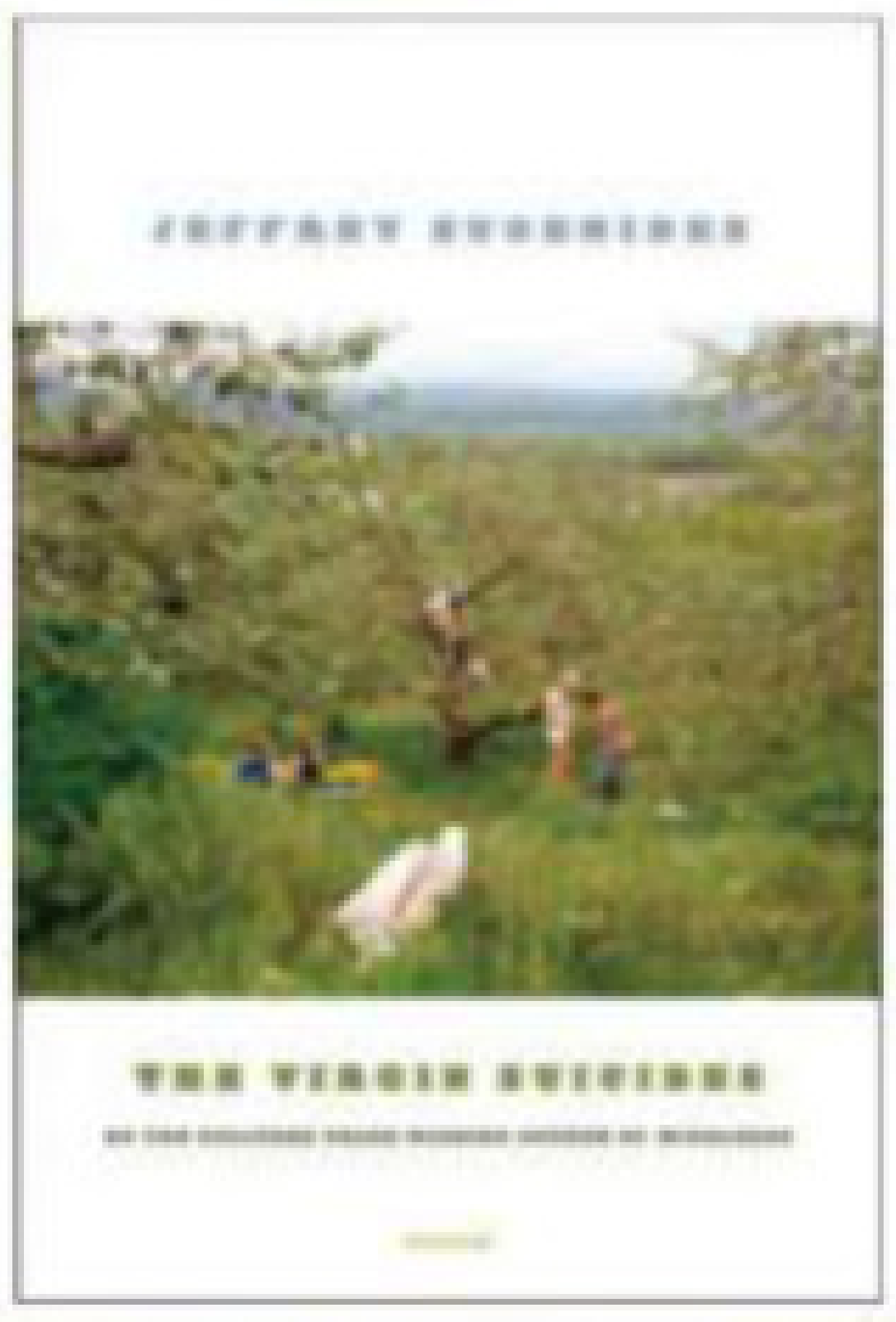


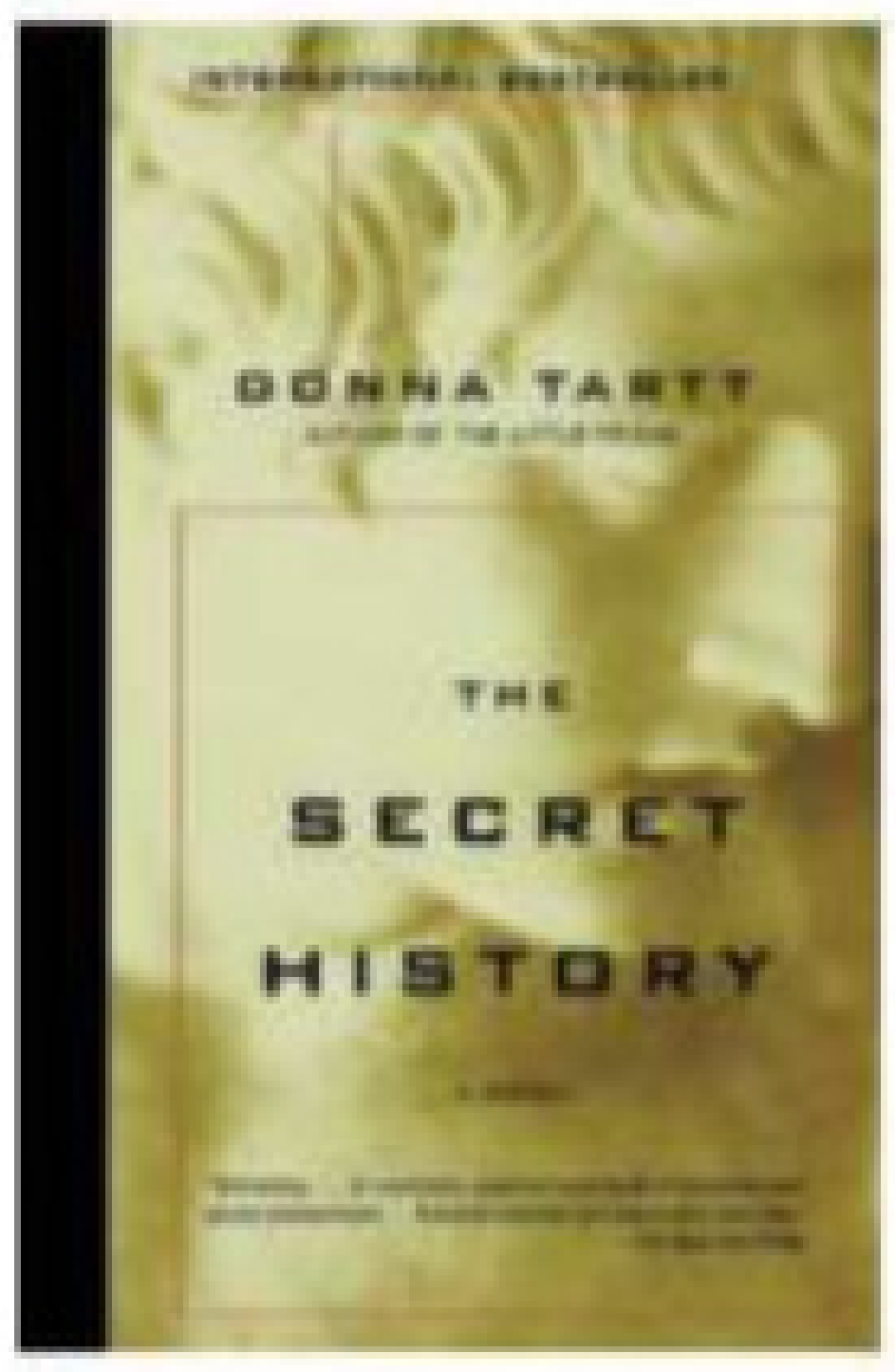


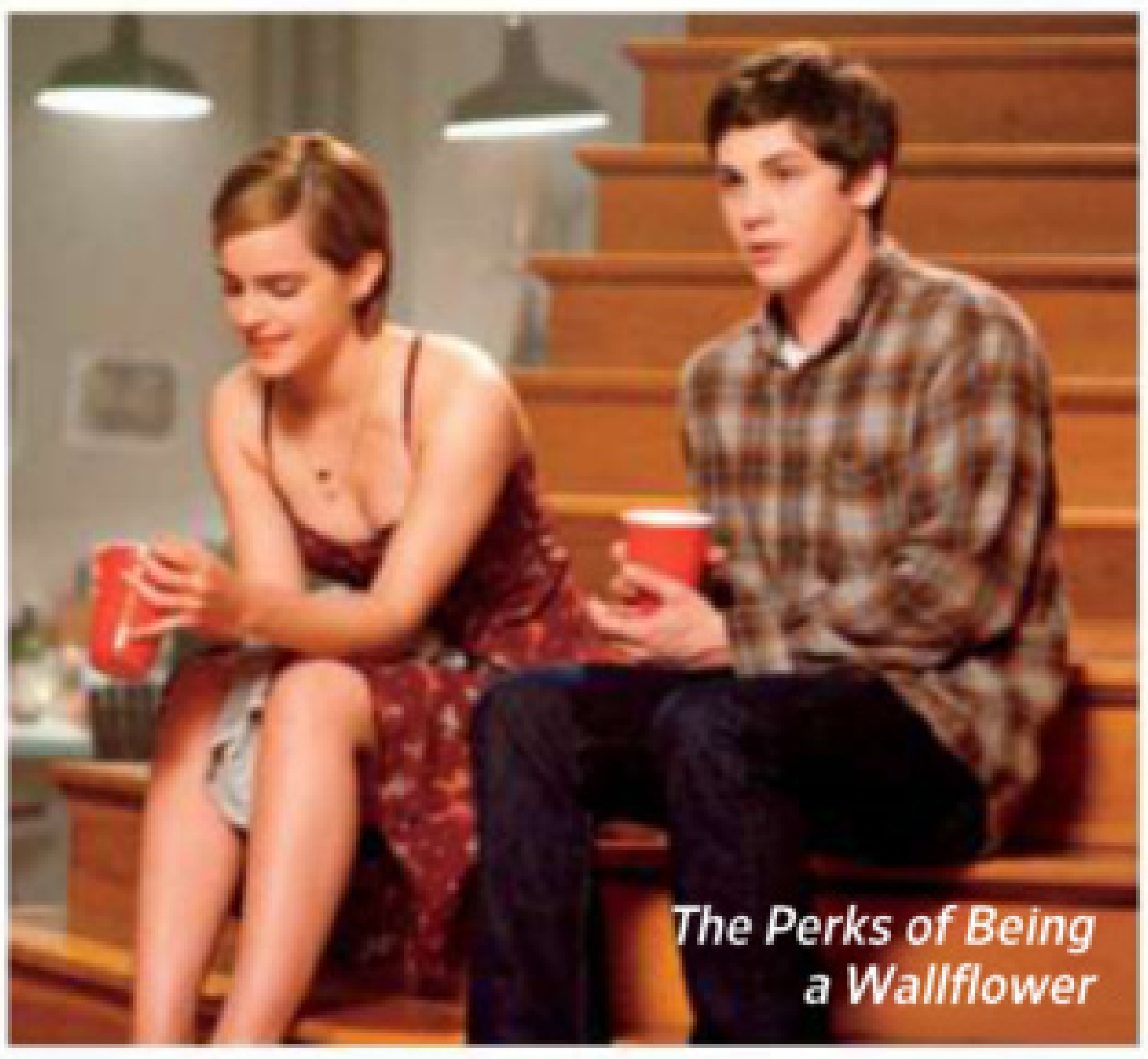


Slouching Towards Bethlehem
JOAN DIDION








The Perks of Being a Wallflower

The best books I read in school

Elementary school: *The View From Saturday* was a crucial read because I was so concerned with grades and academic achievements, and it opened my mind up to the possibility that other things were more important. Middle school: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Flowers for Algernon*. High school: *Light in August* or *Beloved* or *The Great Gatsby* or *Death of a Salesman*...I mean, so many. Once I started *Rookie* and my whole GPA went down, English was the one class I still did really well in and cared about.

The illicit book I read in secret as a kid

TTYL, which was written entirely in AIM-speak and detailed teenage girls drinking and having sex.

The books that changed my life

Franny and Zooey. I related to being singled out by adults as a child who is different from other children. *Ghost World* and *Weetzie Bat* taught middle-school me so much about choosing to find oddities of the world wonderful. As did *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder* by Lawrence Weschler. Joan Didion's *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* equipped me for being a person. And certain picture books were seminal, like *Fat, Fat Rose Marie* and *Christina Katerina & the Box*.

The book I've read over and over

In middle school and high school I reread *The Virgin Suicides* every summer. I can't unblur the lines between the moments and visuals from the book and the memories of my own life at that time.

The book I wish I'd written

The Simon Critchley book on the philosophy of David Bowie. You can feel how it was at once deeply satisfying and really fun for him to write it.

Movie adaptations I love

The Virgin Suicides, *Ghost World*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. All so near and dear to my heart, as much as the books were. All with soundtracks that I essentially copied whenever I'd make someone a mixtape.

If I could read only one genre, it'd be...

Lately I've been weaving in and out of essay collections: *Changing My Mind* by Zadie Smith, *White Girls* by Hilton Als, *Not That Kind of Girl* by Lena Dunham, *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay, *My 1980s* by Wayne Koestenbaum, and Susan Sontag's early diaries. I could do that for a lifetime. Though it seems terrifying to not get to escape into fiction ever again. I don't know. Desert-island questions are designed to make you a fumbling idiot.

The last book that made me laugh...and the last one that made me cry

Tenth of December made me do both, often at the same time, often in public, often to be met with a sympathetic nod from someone else who did the exact same thing.

My fictional heroes

Enid Coleslaw, Eloise, Weetzie Bat, Pippi Longstocking, Turtle from *The Westing Game*, Scout Finch, Sheila from *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*. All inquisitive minds; sometimes obnoxious. I don't know why they were all girls—probably because I was looking for people to model myself after.

My literary crushes

The entire clan in *The Secret History*, and Donna Tartt too, for that matter. She looks so f---ing sharp whenever you see a picture of her. And then you read what she has to say and it makes her even cooler. It's how I feel when I see pictures of teen Winona Ryder and Johnny Depp holding hands in leather jackets, like nobody can match that.

What I'm reading now

The Secret History by Donna Tartt, *The Waverly Gallery* by Kenneth Lonergan, and *Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock. All bases covered.

GEVINSON: JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM; *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER*: JOHN BRAMLEY

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TO CELEBRATE LATINA BEAUTY, STYLE,
LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT.

People EN ESPAÑOL

JENNIFER LÓPEZ
En sus propias palabras

Exclusiva
Adamari
¡ES NIÑA!
- El nombre de la bebé
- Cómo se concibió
- Su maternidad día a día
- Y los posibles riesgos

TRIBUTO A OSCAR DE LA RENTA

LOS SECRETOS DE BLANCA SOTO

Revelado ¿QUIÉNES SON LAS ESTRELLAS DEL AÑO?

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Chica
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HEAR THE WHO, WHAT AND WHEN FREE

THRU DEC. 2

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The cast of *The Hobbit* with Dalton Ross and Matt Bean

The cast of *American Horror Story: Freak Show* with Mario Correa, Julia Cunningham and Jess Cagle

Neil Patrick Harris and Matt Bean

The cast of *The Walking Dead* with Jessica Shaw and Dalton Ross

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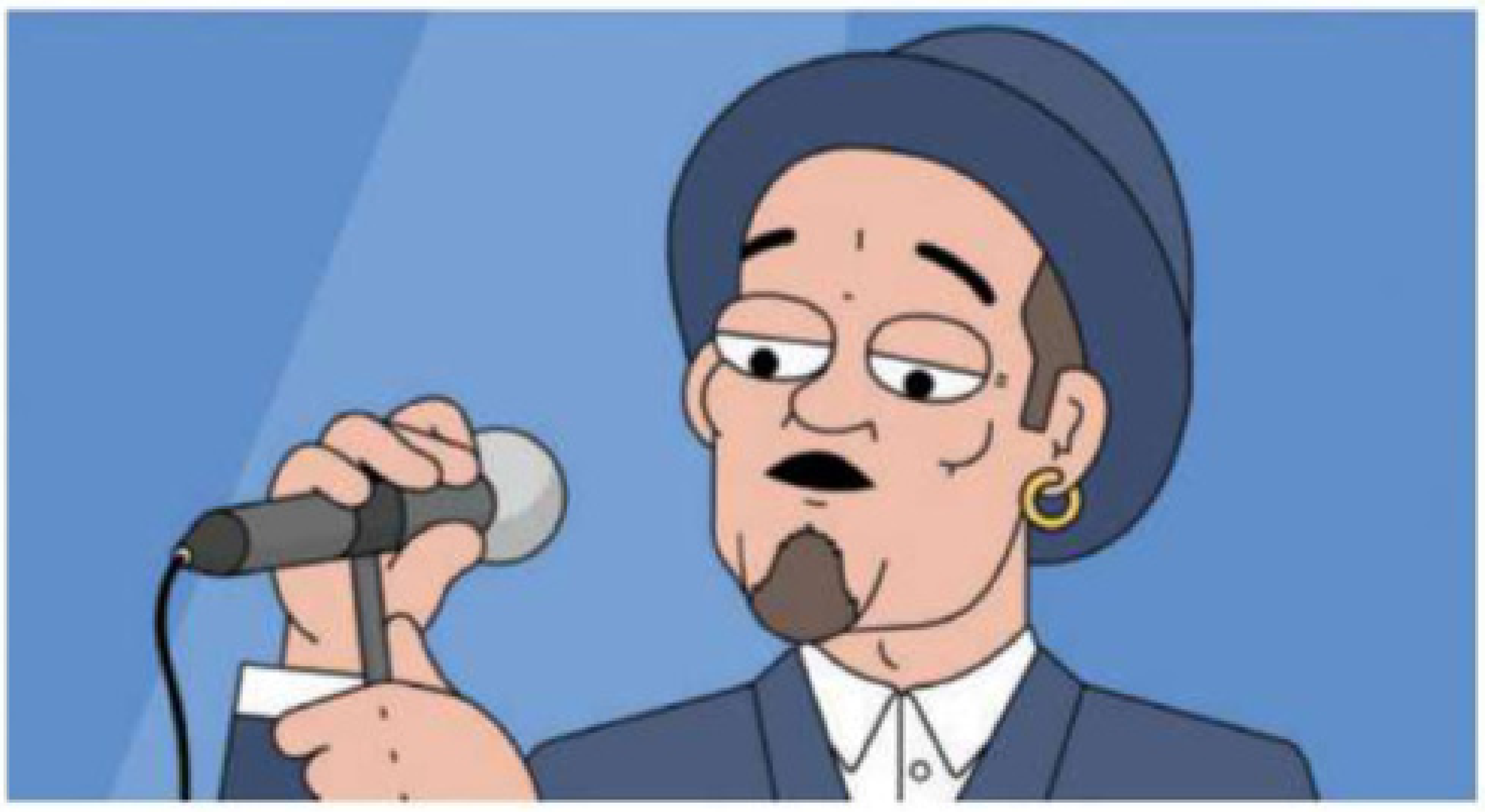
WEEK OF NOV. 24–NOV. 30

The Cheat Sheet

YOUR DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN POP CULTURE. BY RAY RAHMAN

MONDAY 11/24



REMTV

DVD | *ANTHOLOGY*

When was the last time you listened to "Losing My Religion"? Whatever your answer is, that's too long ago. It's probably also been a while since you've watched a rock band on MTV, or seen Michael Stipe with hair, or experienced "Everybody Hurts" unironically. All of those are now possible again thanks to this six-DVD box set, which features virtually everything R.E.M. ever did on MTV, from their 1991 *Unplugged* sessions to their 2008 visit to *The Colbert Report*. (MTV and Comedy Central are corporate cousins.) Even if you weren't the group's biggest fan, the collection—which has the new doc *R.E.M. by MTV*—offers a portrait of the *Reality Bites* era that'll be nostalgic for Gen-Xers and fascinating (in a "Why is that bald man so sad?" kind of way) for everybody else. **A–**

Rick Ross

ALBUM | HOOD BILLIONAIRE

Seven albums in, Rick Ross has a pretty specific goal in mind every time he steps behind a microphone in the studio. "It's delivering the fans something that makes them say, 'Oh, s---!'" explains the Miami-bred MC, who guarantees exactly that reaction at *Billionaire*'s halfway point. "When I was recording 'Elvis Presley Blvd,' I rapped, 'I got Priscilla! I got Priscilla!' And I said, 'Yo, that's classic!'" The album also features drop-ins from Jay Z, Snoop Dogg, and R. Kelly. —*Kyle Anderson*

Major Crimes

TV | 9-10PM | *TNT*

MIDSEASON PREMIERE The team investigates Los Angeles' underground water system, just like in *Chinatown*. Unfortunately, all they find down there is a pile of unwanted DVDs of *The Two Jakes*.

Faith Evans

ALBUM | INCOMPARABLE

I'd try to describe the R&B vet's eighth album for you, but I just don't have anything to compare it to.

Booze Traveler

TV | 10-11PM | *TRAVEL*

SERIES DEBUT A former bartender seeks the world's coolest drinks... and disappoints every drunk person who was expecting to meet Blues Traveler's John Popper.

TUESDAY 11/25

DOWNTON ABBEY
RULES FOR HOUSEHOLD STAFF

Downton Abbey: Rules for Household Staff

BOOK | INTRODUCTION BY MR. CARSON

The Grantham family's exacting butler always knows what to do, but a few key tips were left out:

- **How should I handle unexpected dinner guests?** (Answer: scowl)
- **What should I do if the valet falls in love with the lord's daughter?** (Answer: scowl)
- **How should I prevent a footman from hatching evil schemes on the job?** (Answer: scowl)
- **My father is dying tomorrow. Can I take a half day?** (Answer: gentle scowl)
- **I'm pretty sure Bates is a murderer.** (Answer: scowl)

The Sisterhood: Becoming Nuns

TV | 10-11PM | *LIFETIME*

SERIES DEBUT A docuseries about prospective nuns that treats its subjects with the utmost respect—brought to us by the network behind *Dance Moms*? Call it a small miracle, though the series isn't entirely immune to the allure of reality-style drama. (One new arrival at the convent says, while crying: "We're here to decide, not to make a decision today! I'm not ready!" The show replays the clip three times.) Also, a preview teases nuns learning what twerking is. **B** —*Hillary Busis*

Nellyville

TV | 10-11PM | *BET*

SERIES DEBUT Since the day we first heard "Tippin' in Da Club," there's been no doubt in our minds that Nelly isn't just a bottle-poppin' hip-hop star—he's a tender, loving papa bear, too. It's a joy all the same, though, to watch the "Pimp Juice" singer go all warm 'n' gooey on us as he navigates the perils of single fatherhood. **B+** —*Carolyn Todd*

Nymphomaniac: Volumes I and II

DVD | *MOVIE*

If your extended director's cut lasts more than six hours, please contact your doctor immediately.

Vivica A. Fox AMA

WEB CHAT | 12-2PM | *REDDIT*

Overheard at the EW offices: (1) *Let's ask her what the A stands for!* (2) *So what does the Fox say?* (3) *Ray, why are you writing down what I'm saying?*

MAJOR CRIMES: EDDY CHEN/TNT; ROSS: CHRIS MCKAY/WIREIMAGE.COM; DOWNTON ABBEY: JOSS BARRATT/CARNIVAL FILMS; NELLYVILLE: BET; THE SISTERHOOD: BECOMING NUNS: SCOTT GRIES/A&E; NYMPHOMANIAC: VOLUME I: CHRISTIAN GEISNAES

Illustration by **DAN WOODGER**

*Times are Eastern Standard and subject to change

WEEK OF NOV. 24–NOV. 30

The Cheat Sheet

YOUR DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN POP CULTURE. BY RAY RAHMAN

WEDNESDAY 11/26

Horrible Bosses 2

MOVIE | R | 1 HR., 48 MINS.

Little-known fact: All the men in this movie get their hair cut by the same person. Her name is Liz, and she only knows one style, but she knows it *really well*.

When Turkeys Attack

TV | 10–11PM | *DESTINATION AMERICA*

The special promises "home video footage plucked from real families terrorized by turkeys." Ah, another Lars von Trier masterpiece!

Penguins of Madagascar

MOVIE | PG | 1 HR., 33 MINS.

The DreamWorks Animation joint features Benedict Cumberbatch as a wolf, John Malkovich as an octopus, and Werner Herzog as a documentary filmmaker. Or as your children put it, "Mommy, Daddy—it's that man from my favorite movie, *Into the Abyss*!"

THURSDAY 11/27

The Thanksgiving Day Parade on CBS

TV | 9AM–NOON | *CBS*

Headline act and noted single person Taylor Swift will be there. So will a bunch of cute famous guys—in the form of floats. Could her next breakup-song victim be among them?

Charlie Brown Nah, she always wears the shorts in the relationship.
SpongeBob SquarePants Moisture wrecks her blowout.
Sonic the Hedgehog Could work—she likes to move on fast!
Garfield the Cat *Pfft*, Taylor Swift has never eaten lasagna in her life.
Spider-Man He's nerdy, he's cool, and he likes wearing red. Winner!

Fox's Cause for Paws: An All-Star Dog Spectacular

TV | 8–10PM | *FOX*

This rescue-dog fest will, fittingly, save you from talking to your relatives.

Vikings Season 2

STREAMING | SERIES | *AMAZON*

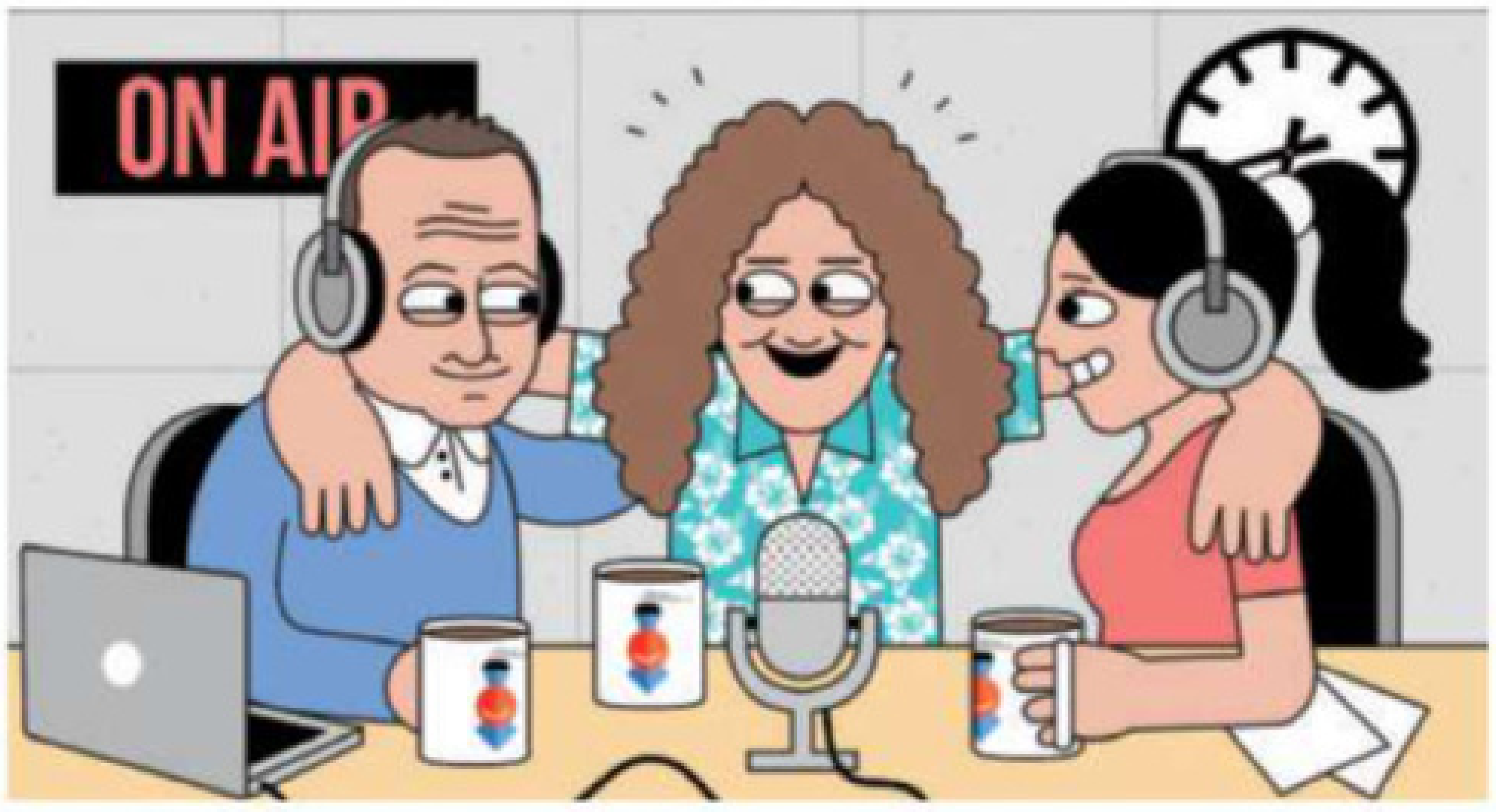
Binge on the History channel series and discover what the textbooks have been hiding from you all these years: Vikings had British accents!

Bill Cosby 77

STREAMING | *NETFLIX*

The legendary comedian celebrates his 77th birthday with light monologues about first kisses, early friendships, and family life, punctuated with his trademark eye rolls and rubber faces. Though the special was recorded amid a spate of sexual-abuse allegations, Cosby sticks to well-worn, nostalgic material, making his 85-minute performance feel less intimate and more aloof. **B** —*Nina Terrero*

FRIDAY 11/28



2014 Pardcast-a-Thon Fundraiser

PODCAST | *3PM–3AM*

Since 2009, comedian and *Conan* warm-up act Jimmy Pardo has focused on making Black Friday a little lighter. The sixth annual Pardcast-a-Thon finds Pardo expanding his excellent *Never Not Funny* podcast into a 12-hour live event that can be heard at the show's website (nevernotfunny.com) and on the YouTube network JASH. Pardcast-a-Thon has raised half a million dollars for the charity Smile Train through listener donations and auction items that include sitting in on a future *Never Not Funny*. "I always joke that they're meeting their hero," says Pardo, who grew up obsessing over the Jerry Lewis telethon. "They like being in the room and getting the Jimmy Pardo treatment." This year "Weird Al" Yankovic, Sarah Silverman, and others will all be subject to the same treatment. —*Kyle Anderson*

Momsters: When Moms Go Bad

TV | 10–10:30PM | *ID*

SERIES DEBUT Imagine a reality series that offers thoughtful profiles in dubious motherhood and asks smart questions about good parenting in a child-centric society. Now imagine the cheap, shallow version of that show, hosted (barely) by a spirited Roseanne Barr and full of cheeky-campy reenactments. Any guess which show this is? If the absolutely true story of that Texas-cheerleader-murdering mom is a joke you just *love* hearing, knock yourself out. **D** —*Jeff Jensen*

CMT Crossroads: Bob Seger and Jason Aldean

TV | 10–11PM | *CMT*

Tabloid nickname: Bobson Saldean.

Russell Brand: Messiah Complex

TV | 10–11:30PM | *EPIX*

It takes a special kind of wanker to tie Nietzsche quotes and lines like "tumble dryer full of tits" into a seamless routine. Brand is just that guy in this uproarious stand-up set, in which the wild Brit gyrates across the stage as he digs into some of his favorite subjects—social artifices, our "cultural malaise," and the patriarchal conglomerate—like some eccentric college professor (with tenure). Thanks to his acrid wit, he manages to pull it off, Gandhi gross-out jokes and all. **A** —*Carolyn Todd*

The Babadook

MOVIE | NR | 1 HR., 34 MINS.

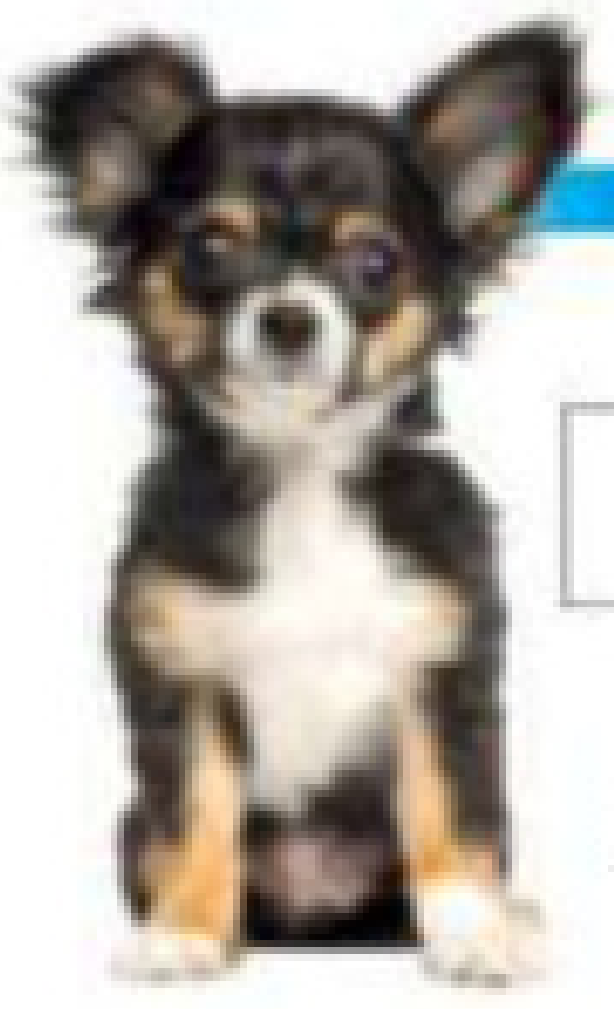
The Australian horror film, about a widow's son's obsession with a creepy children's tale that he thinks is real, was a hit at Sundance, so picture giant laurel leaves around this text.

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2: JOHN P. JOHNSON; SPIDER-MAN FLOAT: EUGENE GOLOGURSKY/WIREIMAGE.COM; *PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR*: DREAMWORKS ANIMATION; RUSSELL BRAND: *MESSIAH COMPLEX*: PIP/BBC WORLDWIDE; *CMT CROSSROADS: BOB SEGER AND JASON ALDEAN*: RICK DIAMOND/CMT

Illustration by DAN WOODGER

Animal Threat Index

← From harmless to dangerous



Puppies

Fox's Cause for Paws: An All-Star Dog Spectacular

Penguins

Penguins of Madagascar

Grumpy Cats

Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever

Angry Turkeys

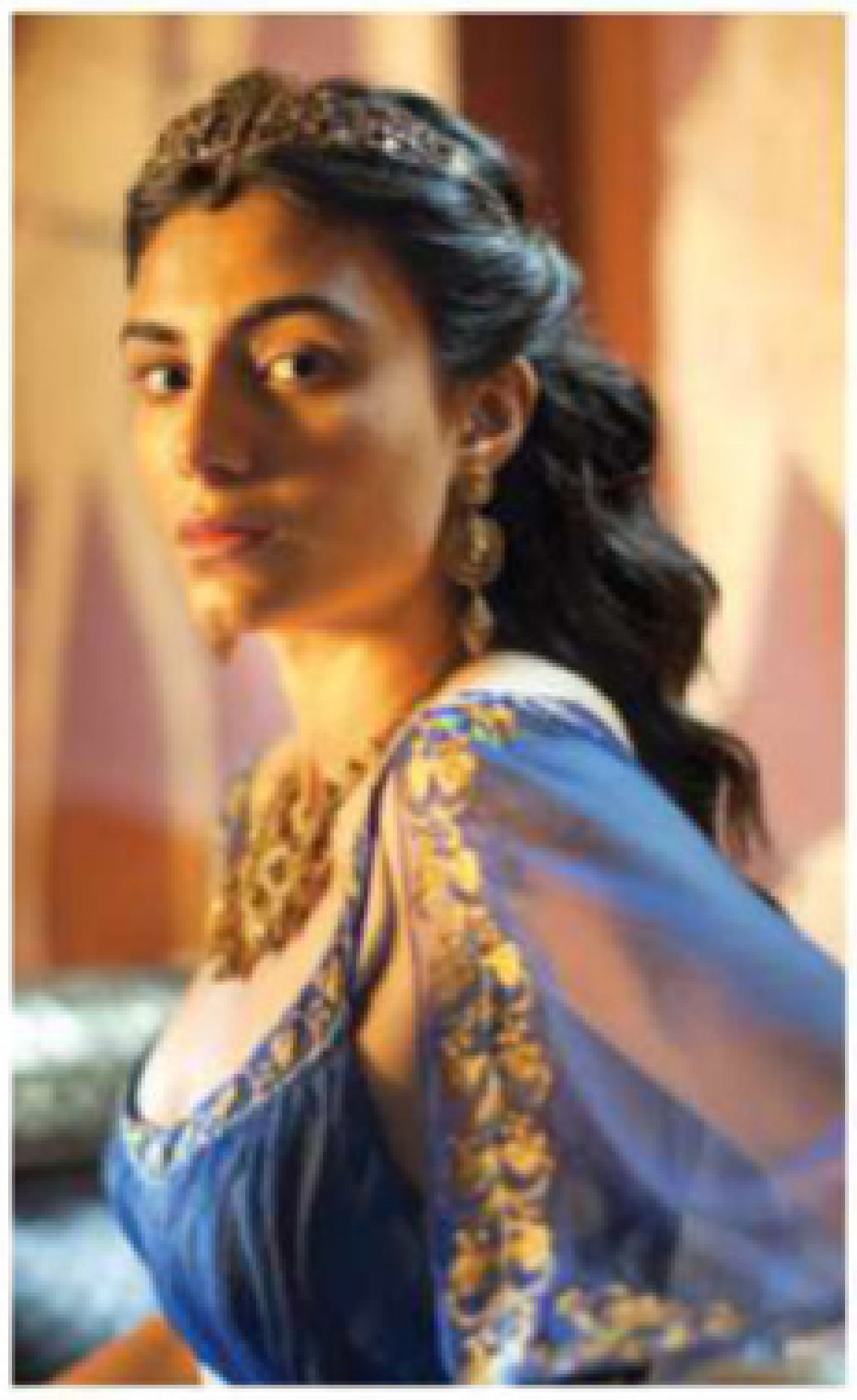
When Turkeys Attack

SATURDAY 11/29

Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever

TV | 8-10PM | *LIFETIME*

Aubrey Plaza, who voices the titular kitty, recently told Jimmy Kimmel that viewers of this bizarre holiday special should "have a couple glasses of wine" before watching. But what's the perfect bottle? "Clearly the best wine to go with a Grumpy Cat movie is the crisp 2013 Viña San Pedro Gato Negro Sauvignon Blanc ($8), with its leaping black cat on the label," says *Food & Wine* executive wine editor Ray Isle. "Or, if you're a dog lover stuck watching GC's exploits with your cat-loving spouse, opt for the smoky 2012 Mulderbosch Faithful Hound Red ($18) instead." Both are much classier than our first idea: eggnog in a cat-shaped mug.



Atlantis

TV | 9-10PM | *BBC AMERICA*

The best show about a lost city since *The Wire*.

Late Nite Chef Fight

TV | 10-11PM | *FYI*

SERIES DEBUT Based on a real Las Vegas phenomenon, the cooking show pits two chefs against each other in a late-night food truck. Surely they're playing for chips?

SUNDAY 11/30

Soul Train Awards 2014

TV | 8-9:30PM | *BET AND CENTRIC*

Wendy Williams hosts the ceremony, while Lil' Kim and Da Brat salute Kool & the Gang for their pioneering stand against spell-check.

Sleepless in America

TV | 8-10PM | *NAT GEO*

Nat Geo teams with the NIH to explore our national sleep-deprivation epidemizzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz...

The Walking Dead

TV | 9-10PM | *AMC*

MIDSEASON FINALE Memo to Officer Dawn Lerner and the occupants of Grady Memorial Hospital: You may want to consult with Gareth the cannibal before you decide to take on Rick Grimes. Oh, wait. You can't... BECAUSE HE'S DEAD! We'll have to wait to see if that famous red-handled machete makes another appearance before tonight's winter recess, but don't worry if it doesn't, as Rick's mouth also qualifies as a registered weapon. Why, just ask Joe the claimer. Oh, wait. You can't...ALSO DEAD! We're sensing a trend here. *—Dalton Ross*

The Mentalist

TV | 9:30-10:30PM | *CBS*

SEASON PREMIERE Most cop dramas end as abruptly as the lives of their crime-of-the-week victims (see: *CSI: Miami* and *Ghost Whisperer*, both axed without warning). Not *The Mentalist*, which returns for its final 13-episode run. "We got a chance that's rarely given in this business: to really end the story and to tell the story exactly as we wanted to," says creator Bruno Heller. Season 7 has the Sherlockian Patrick Jane (Simon Baker) and his pragmatic partner, Teresa Lisbon (Robin Tunney), struggling to keep their new romance a secret while considering big changes, like quitting law enforcement—and maybe even getting married. "A wedding is always something to be wished for," teases Heller, suggesting that his could be the rare crime show with a happy ending, both on and off screen. *—James Hibberd*

PUPPY: LIFE ON WHITE/GETTY IMAGES; TURKEY: PAUL TESSIER/GETTY IMAGES; *GRUMPY CAT'S WORST CHRISTMAS EVER*: CHRIS HELCERMANAS-BENGE/LIFETIME; *THE WALKING DEAD*: FRANK OCKENFELS 3/AMC (3); ZOMBIE: GREG NICOTERO/AMC; *SOUL TRAIN AWARDS*: BRIAN ACH/BET NETWORKS; *ATLANTIS*: PHIL MILLER/BBC AMERICA; *LATE NITE CHEF FIGHT*: RICHARD KNAPP/A+E; *THE MENTALIST*: SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

The Bullseye

Here's a look at the pop culture news that was right on target this week—and the events that missed the mark

You know what they say: business up front, absolutely disgusting in the back.

Usher to release new song via Honey Nut Cheerios box—a good omen for Barry Manilow's planned team-up with Grape-Nuts

Are we done with this feud yet are we done with this feud yet are we done with this feud yet are we done with thi—

Now we'll never find out which one was Franklin and which was Bash!

Randy finally leaves *American Idol*, and somewhere in America, Brian Dunkleman just won 20 bucks.

Fictional-pop-star movie > real-pop-star movie

Nine years never looked so good.

That'll do, Lorde. That'll do.

Rihanna's new album could be out before 2015, just in time to remember what Rihanna sounds like.

Solange Knowles best.

And just like that, you and your niece have something to bond over at Thanksgiving.

Christoph Waltz rumored to be Bond villain. Also rumored to play Bond villain in new movie.

So, *The Office* got weird.

The Osbournes are coming back to TV, where Ozzy's indecipherable lines will now be subtitled in emoji.

Swedish teenage Ace of Base tribute band A*Base releases debut single and...you know what, never mind.

Well, there are at least two bulging reasons to see Hugh Jackman's new play.

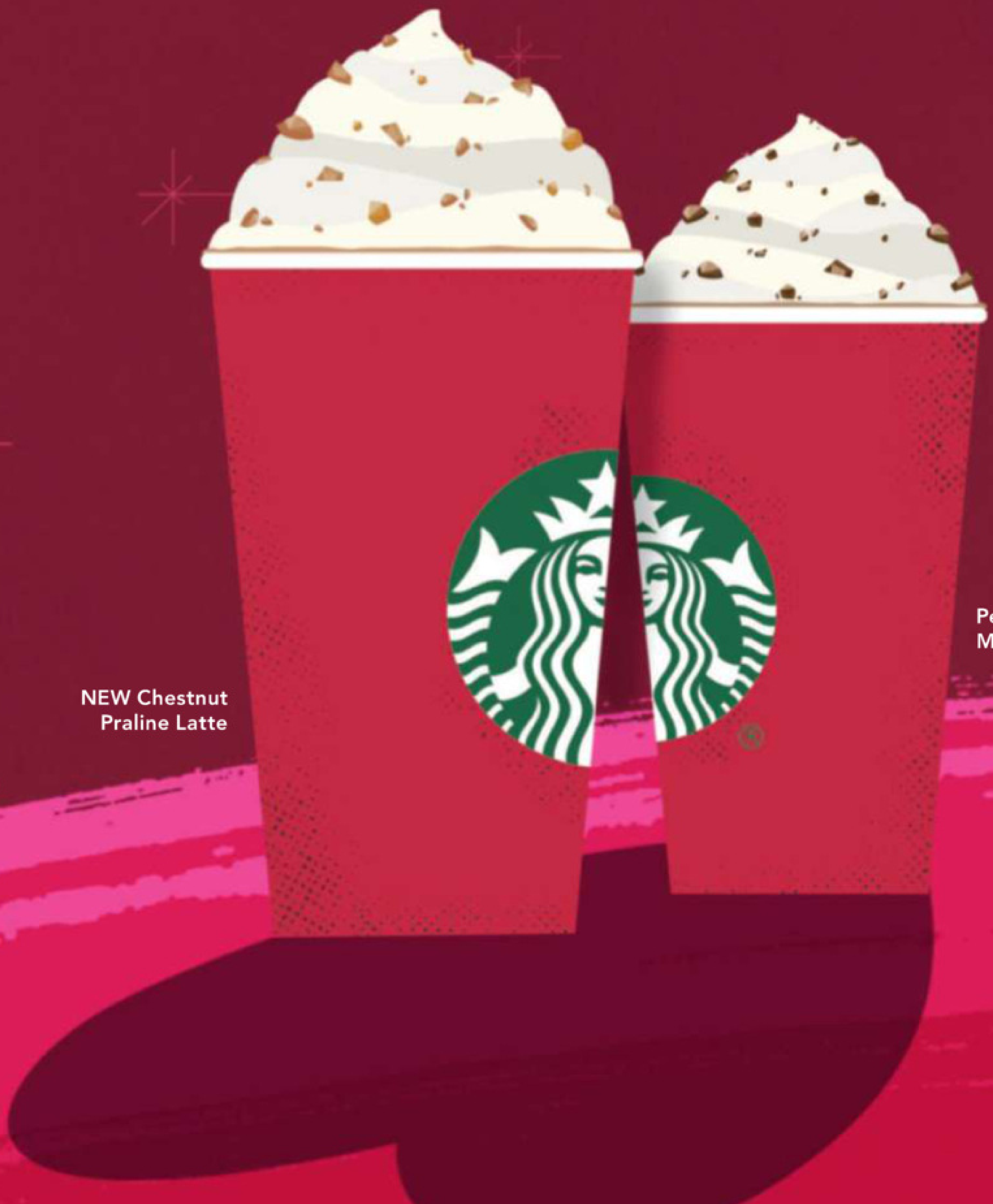
Ariana Grande announces Christmas single, sending Mariah Carey one step closer to dyeing her skin green and raiding Whoville.

M. Night Shyamalan made his newest movie in secret—exactly like how you'll watch it.

USHER: DONALD KRAVITZ/GETTY IMAGES; TAYLOR SWIFT: JAMES DEVANEY/GETTY IMAGES; *FRANKLIN & BASH*: WILLIAMS & HIRAKAWA/TNT; *THE COMEBACK*: JOHN JOHNSON/HBO; RIHANNA: KEVIN MAZUR/HBO/GETTY IMAGES; KNOWLES: JOSH BRASTED/WIREIMAGE.COM; SHYAMALAN: ZADE ROSENTHAL; *THE OSBOURNES*: MTV; *FOXCATCHER*: SONY PICTURES; *THE RIVER*: RICHARD TERMINE; WALTZ: TOMMASO BODDI/GETTY IMAGES; RANDY JACKSON: FOX/GETTY IMAGES; *BEYOND THE LIGHTS*: SUZANNE TENNER; *AALIYAH: THE PRINCESS OF R&B*: CHRISTOS KALOHORIDIS/LIFETIME; ROBERT PATTINSON: TIBRINA HOBSON/FILMMAGIC.COM (2)

Share Joy

Come in for a new holiday favorite,
the Chestnut Praline Latte.


NEW Chestnut Praline Latte
Peppermint Mocha

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Chris Pine
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